

ST. DEMETRIOS

Volume XXXIV, No 07

Saco, Maine

JULY / AUGUST 2023

In the Summer we have one Newsletter for July & August....

Greek

Festival

July 14, 15 & 16

By the Grace of God – *we are BACK!*

*Everything is falling into place,
many are working so hard.*

See you in 2 weeks!

Lots of information in this Newsletter about our Festival.

Also, we need flyers passed out everywhere, can you help, stop by anytime.



OPA!

We are preparing the foods and pastries you love!

ST. DEMETRIOS 2023 GREEK FESTIVAL!

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July 14 • 15 • 16th 2023

11-9 Friday & Saturday

11-3 Sunday

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ATTENTION... READ THIS MESSAGE!!

For the Festival we need help in different areas of "needs".

Please contact Phil Kowash... phone 207-391-2571 or pkowash@maine.rr.com.

- ❖ **Greek Coffee Area Tidbit from Van Marines.**
Greek coffee needs one extra person for **Friday night** and another for **Saturday night**. If 1 person can do both nights...great! **5:00pm to closing.**
- ❖ **THURSDAY, JULY 13th.... EVERYONE HELP!! From Phil Kowash...** We need help on **07/13 starting at 8am** and continuing until all tasks are complete. We would take all of the help that we can get even if just for a few hours. This is our big push to get the festival set up and ready for Friday.
- ❖ **SUNDAY, JULY 16TH... from Phil Kowash...** We **need help on Sunday, 07/16 starting at 2:30pm** and continuing until all tasks are complete (generally by 6pm). Final clean up and storage of festival.
- ❖ **WE NEED LOTS OF HELP. From Stavros Nashi. There are so many areas that need your help.**
- ❖ We are still actively recruiting people. Here are some areas we need help!
- ❖ Cashiers, Food Prep, Barbecue, Dishwashing, Loukoumades, Pizza/Soda, Gyros
- ❖ Handing out trays, Reception, Bookstore/Candles, Clean up and Set up
- ❖ *We will train new people and try to accommodate schedules.*
- ❖ *Please help if you can. We need everyone to pitch in to make this a success. The week before the festival is crucial. So much to do.*
- ❖ **NEED CASHIERS AT THE PASTRY TABLE. From Mary Berube.** Really need your help folks! There are available hours so we will certainly try to accommodate you. If you have a couple of hours or more, let us know.

- ❖ **PASTRY LADIES NEED HELP AS FOLLOWS. From Carol X, Vanja, Cindy.**
- ❖ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (July 5, 6, and 7th): 9:00am and on.
- ❖ Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, (July 10, 11, 12, 13th): 9:00am and on.
- ❖ At the Festival, for the daily shifts from 11:00am to 3:00pm, we need help.
- ❖ At the festival, Friday and Saturday, 3:00pm to 7:00pm (or if you can stay, until 9:00pm).
- ❖ Please see Phil or Carol, Vanja, Cindy, or email: saintfotini@gmail.com.

Thank you folks. Come ... Get involved!

**You will see how much fun it is... while we are preparing for the festival,
and then the actual Festival ... "it is the happy place to be" !!**

GOD BLESS AMERICA



The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies** adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day,

July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has, since the late 19th century, become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is The Star-Spangled Banner,³ the national anthem of the United States.

***Between 1607 and 1732, the British founded 13 colonies: Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. The colonists (left) face the British during the Revolutionary War.*

Transfiguration:

The Feast Of Light and Glory Aug 6

In every liturgy of the Church, we address our prayers and thanksgiving to God who is described as *"ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, ever-existing and eternally the same."* This kind of language - the language of prayer; points to God's majesty and transcendence while, at the same time, it conveys His presence. God is absolutely transcendent - beyond anything that we can know and experience - yet He is also present (immanent) and acts on behalf of us for our salvation.

The feasts of the Church not only remember certain special events, but make Christ present to us in those events through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the feast of the Nativity of Christ, we see revealed to us the mystery of God's incarnation in the flesh. He reveals Himself to us as man while yet remaining God.

In the feast of Theophany, we see Christ revealed as the "Beloved Son" of God the Father. At Christ's baptism in the Jordan, God makes it clear that this man Jesus is truly the "Son of God."

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of Christ, we see Christ being revealed in all His divine glory.

The feast of - Metamorphosis - celebrated on August 6 - was introduced as a separate feast with all its major characteristics some time between the sixth and eighth centuries.

The Fathers of the Church stress in their sermons that Jesus, when He was transfigured before His disciples, did not add anything to His nature that He did not possess before, but revealed what He already was. Jesus' humanity was not changed into divinity at the Transfiguration; He was divine, but in this event, His divine glory was revealed.

The appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah indicates that Jesus is the one whom the law and the prophets had looked toward. The past (Moses and Elijah), the present (the kingdom of God already here) and the future (crucifixion, resurrection and the world to come) make up the content of the event.

The early Fathers regarded the Transfiguration, like Theophany, as a sign of the transformation of human nature and of the reality of salvation. For salvation, they stressed, cannot be accomplished without the transfiguration of human nature by the power of God. The Transfiguration is also the day of the celebration of the deification (theosis) of human nature.

Christian Education
Orthodox Church in America

The Dormition of the Theotokos

Celebrated on August 15 (August 28)

The Feast of the Dormition or Falling Asleep of the Theotokos commemorates the death, resurrection, and glorification of Christ's mother. To help us in our preparation of the feast, it is preceded by a two week fast. As with the Nativity of the Virgin (September 8/21) and the feast of her Entrance to the Temple (November 21/December 4), the Feast of the Dormition also comes from the Tradition of the Church.

There we learn that Mary died as all people die because she had a mortal human nature affected by the corruption of this world. The Church proclaims that Mary needed to be saved by Christ just as all of us are saved from trials, sufferings, and death of this world. Having truly died, she was raised by her Son as the "Mother of Life" and already participates in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:27-28) Finally, we celebrate the fact that what happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience and love.

It is important to remember that there are no relics of the Theotokos. Their existence has never been mentioned throughout history. At one time in Constantinople there was a center of pilgrimage where the belt and veil of the Virgin were venerated.

Adapted from The Orthodox Church, Volume II: Worship, by Fr. Thomas Hopko.

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 4 th Sun of Matthew	3	4 <i>God bless America!</i>	5		6	7
			<i>Fr Basil will be at the Camp.</i>			
9 5 th Sun of Matthew	10	11	12 8:30am Liturgy Elder Paisios	13 Festival <i>set up</i>	14	15
	Festival 2023					
16 Holy Fathers of 4 th Church Council	17	18	19	20 8:30am Liturgy Prophet Elias	21	22 8:30am Liturgy St Mary Magdalene
Festival						
23 7 th Sun of Matthew	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8 th Sun of Matthew	31					

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 8:30am Liturgy w/ memorial for eldress Taxiarchia Visit by "Kosmos" Young Adults!	4	5
Transfiguration -- Dormition Fast						
					6:30pm Paraklisis	6:30pm Vespers
6 The Transfiguration Μεταμορφωσις (Blessing of grapes) (Confession after Liturgy) <u>Children's Class</u>	7	8 8:30am Paraklisis	9	10 8:30am Paraklisis	11	12
Transfiguration -- Dormition Fast						
	6:30pm Paraklisis		6:30pm Paraklisis	6:00pm Ch Council	6:30pm Paraklisis	6:30pm Vespers
13 10 th Sunday of Matthew <u>Children's Class</u>	14	15 Dormition/Falling Asleep of Theotokos Η Κημισις της Θεοτοκου (Αρτοκλασια – Artoklasia)	16	17	18	19
Transfiguration -- Dormition Fast						
	Feast day Vespers @ Manchester, NH					
20 11 th Sunday of Matthew <u>Children's Class</u>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 12 th Sunday of Matthew <u>Children's Class</u>	28	29 8:30am Liturgy Beheading of St John the Forerunner	30	31		

Notes (July/August 2023)

“Kosmos visit”

As in past years – before “Corona”, we participated annually in the Young Adult Exchange program KOSMOS.

Every year a group (25-30 people) from our Metropolis visits the Metropolis of Neapolis (Naples) in Macedonia (Greece), and a group from there, visits us.

We are Hosting them on Thursday August 3.

We will give them Lunch & Dinner, take them to different areas in Maine to see & close the day with the fireworks in OOB!

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SPECIFICS about Fasting/Feasts (in the Summer):

Transfiguration/Dormition Fast begins Tuesday August 1th & ends Tuesday August 15th.

Please bring Arto, Communion wine & oil, may we always have our table full!

During this fast, we fast from meats/dairy/fish/wine and olive oil, seafood is permitted. On Saturdays/ Sundays we eat olive oil & wine. Wednesdays & Fridays is the regular Fast!

On the Transfiguration (Tues., Aug 6), we also partake of fish, to celebrate the day/Event!

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Church Needs (during the summer):

Transfiguration of the Lord – August 6: Everyone is asked to bring grapes. *They should be washed & cut up into small bunches.*

Also Lenten ARTO if possible.

Dormition of the Theotokos – August 15: Everyone should try to bring **ARTOKLASIA** (the 5 loaves). Also oil.... We do not need any wine.

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Confession.

On **Sunday Aug 6**, after Liturgy, Fr Basil will remain in church for short (10 min.) confession. Please call office to be put on list.

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More Notes for July/August 2023

Email/call to Fr Basil!

Please **do NOT email** Fr Basil.

Call the office or text him.

For appointments always connect with the office.

CANISTERS. Just a reminder to take one of the canisters (located at the candle stand), and fill it with quarters. Bring the filled canister to the office when ready. Thank you for your offering.

CALLING ALL LADIES of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church: We would like you to be included on the St. Fotini email distribution list. Send your email address to saintfotini@gmail.com. Thank you.

* * * * *

KEEP THE FAITH !

On Sorrows

Let us kiss the Cross — as a banner of Christ, which leads disciples of Christ to the Kingdom of Heaven. A thief was hung on the cross, as written in the Gospels. He was hung on the cross like a robber. However, from the cross, he was transported to heaven as a confessor. People pelted Stephen with stones, as a blasphemer. However, by the judgment of God, Heaven parted for him, as for a living temple of the Holy Spirit. St. Tikhon of Voronezh, accused of having an irritable temper, was forced to leave his bishop's service, and enter the walls of a silent monastery. His stay there gave the appearance of a place of exile for the holy shepherd. Therefore, he devoted himself to prayer and ascetic struggles. These holy monastic exercises earned him an incorruptible and abiding righteousness in Christ, and glory from Him in Heaven and on earth.

From my Hand and Heart: Selected Letters of St. Ignatius

Monthly Financial Report. 6/20/2023

(Operating Budget 2023)

Mortgage Balance: \$145,856

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE as of May 31, 2023

Total Stewards: 145

Total Stewardship Received: \$92,148

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income (\$)</u>	<u>Expenses (\$)</u>	<u>Operating account (\$)</u>
January	\$23,692	\$24,598	-\$906
February	\$36,751	\$24,808	\$11,943
March	\$25,704	\$26,426	\$10,345
April	\$24,419	\$27,327	\$7,437
May	\$15,205	\$19,720	\$2,927

We ended April in the **Black \$2,927!** {Compare to 2022: -\$91}.

Our Income is up by \$7,000 (compared to LAST YEAR).

Our Expenses are up by \$7,000 (compared to LAST YEAR).

Compare: Year to date:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Income:	\$118,303	\$125,801
Total Expenses:	\$115,373	\$122,879

Let our giving reflect our faith!

* * * * *

Let us stare at our salvation straight in the eyes, no matter how alarming and embarrassing it is. Let us correct our life. Let us thank God from the depth of our heart, and let us offer Him praise and doxology because we are still alive and we can amend the matters related to our soul and prepare ourselves.

† Elder Ephraim of Arizona

Thank you Sponsors for making our St. Demetrios Newsletter possible!



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Ladies Society

Saint Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

Sunday Services:

9:00 AM Orthros

Divine Liturgy by 10:00 AM

Summer hours start May 15:

Orthros 8:45 AM, Divine Liturgy by 9:30 AM

Fr. Basil Arabatzis, Presbyter

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Website: stdemetriosofmaine.com

Church: (207) 284-5651

FAX: (207) 283-4641

Home: (207) 284-6170

When we are praying, the first thing that's needed is attentiveness. Without attentiveness prayer is not worthwhile, but if one neglects prayer completely, that is the worst...

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica
Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives p 196, # 49

Saint Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

186 Bradley Street

Saco, ME 04072

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