

ST. DEMETRIOS

Volume XXXV, No 08

Saco, Maine

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday October 20!

We are *celebrating 25 years*
on Bradley St!

At “**Dunegrass**”, (in OOB)
right after the Liturgy!

Unbelievable, *but TRUE!*

We **completed our 24th year** on January 2nd
of this year! We are now in our **25th year!**

*Our Metropolitan Methodios will be with us
on that day!*

We are celebrating together with the Lacones
Association, who are sponsoring the event, as they
celebrate their 90th Anniversary!

you are invited....

CELEBRATION GALA

Sunday, The 20th of October, 2024

12:00PM to 6:00PM

Dunegrass Ballroom
Old Orchard Beach, ME

Bountiful Buffet Luncheon
Children's Luncheon

Music By The Salonika Boys

Adults \$60

Children (12 & under) \$12

RSVP by October 6TH

COME CELEBRATE
115 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ST. DEMETRIOS COMMUNITY

25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. DEMETRIOS IN SACO, ME.

AND THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LACONES ASSOCIATION

Gala Celebration Menu 2024

Cocktail Hour: Cheese & Crudite Display Crackers, Seasonal Vegetables, Cheeses, Dried Fruit, Dips, Nuts

Custom Buffet: Grilled Greek Seasoned Lamb Chops, Greek Seasoned Chicken Breast, Greek Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables

Kids Station: Macaroni & Cheese, Chicken Tenders, Cheeseburger Sliders, Fruit Salad

Desserts: Family Style Platters on each table of Greek Pastries.

25 years on Bradley St.!

This is our 25th year in our “new” church-temple.

It is hard to believe that it has been already this many years.

It was Sunday, January 2, 2000AD, that we had our last Liturgy on Adams St. At the conclusion, we all picked up icons, and all the items we use for worship, got into our cars (*drove about a mile*) and came into our Drivas Hall to set everything up temporarily, since the Temple/Nave was not yet completed.

Then on Sunday, April 23, 2000 (St. George) that year it was Palm Sunday, we walked from our Hall to the front of the church for the actual “opening of the Doors” Thyranixia. Our Metropolitan Methodios was with us.

So, Sunday Oct. 20, we are celebrating this year God’s Blessing & God’s Blessings on our Community.

Please keep in mind that the Society of Lacones is **underwriting the cost of the celebration**. *They are celebrating 90 years!*

This way, **the money raised by the tickets, will go to also raise the funds for our annual “Snow-plow” costs.**

Snowplow Costs & Expenses.

*This year we are getting **multiple quotes** on our “Snow Removal” costs.

*We are **not** doing an extra fundraiser.

*All **extra donations** (minimum of \$50) at our “25 Years” Celebration, will be exclusively used for “Snow Removal/Maintenance”.

*These donations will be **acknowledged in the Newsletter & at the Celebration!**

Preliminary **Festival VERY successful** Report

Our Festival was again very successful!

In spite of the Thundershowers on Saturday afternoon, in spite of the extreme heat & humidity, all the hard work paid off.

The bills are usually submitted approx. within 60 days – so we should have the final results by the middle to the end of September.

As of August 14....

Approx. **Gross Income:** \$ 165,000

Approx. **Estimated Expenses:** \$ 70,000

Approx. **Estimated Net Income:** \$ 95,000

Congratulations! And Thank You!

...a festival Thank You note from Stavro Nashi

Dear fellow parishioners,

With GreekFest24 finally behind us I want to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and supporters for helping make this year's festival another huge success. There is an incredible amount of work that goes into an event of this kind and it really is a tribute to everyone's dedication and love for our St. Demetrios family.

The festival not only is an important outreach to the wider community but also is an important vehicle for building bonds with our fellow parishioners of all ages. It was especially gratifying this year to see so many young people stepping up to contribute their time and effort.

The thousands of visitors that passed through had nothing but praise for not only the food but more importantly for the wonderful community effort on display.

May Saint Demetrios watch over us and intercede on our behalf.

THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER

The Day of the **INDICTION** or *beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year*

On this day the Church of Christ observes the Indiction or proclamation of the beginning of the ecclesiastical year.

And so today gathered together in oneness of mind, praise with one voice Him who holds all things in being, and showers blessings upon the works of His hands at all times. It is Christ Himself who opens to us the gates of the year and who calls us to follow Him, so as to share in His eternity.

- from the Synaxarion, Vol. 1

On September 8th, we celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos, the Mother of the Lord.

We have a couple of short & wonderful quotes about Her from the saints from different centuries!

"This Virgin is the Theotokos, Mary, the Most Glorious of God, from Whose womb the Most Divine Jesus Christ came forth in the flesh, and by Whom He Himself arranged (here) a wondrous temple for Himself.

She conceived without seed and gave birth without corruption, since Her Son was God, though also He was born in the flesh."

- St. Andrew of Crete

"Your name, O Mary, is a precious ointment, which breathes forth the scent of Divine Grace. Let this ointment of salvation enter the innermost recesses of our souls".

- St. Ambrose of Milan

"Honor Mary, but let the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be worshipped; let no one worship Mary ... even though Mary is most beautiful and holy and venerable, yet she is not to be worshipped." He who honors the Lord, honors also the holy vessel; he who dishonors the holy vessel, also dishonors his Lord. Let Mary be by herself the holy virgin, the holy vessel".

- St. Epiphanius of Salamis

** ** ** ** **

GOD BLESS AMERICA. LET US NEVER FORGET ... SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The **September 11 attacks** (also referred to as **9/11**) were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group Al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. The attacks killed 2,996 people, injured over 6,000 others, and caused at least \$10 billion infrastructure and property damage. Additional people died of related cancer and respiratory diseases in the months and years following the attacks.

9/11 is the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history and the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States with 343 and 72 killed, respectively.

Former New York Governor George Pataki, who was in office during 9/11, said during the groundbreaking "that the church is a missing piece in the efforts to rebuild Ground Zero. It was the city-states that gave us our belief today in freedom," he said. "It will now be the Greek Orthodox Church that is the rock of faith that anchors all that is done here at Ground Zero."

14th of September
the Finding of the Holy Cross

by the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine – *queen & the Equal to the Apostles Helen*

Two events are commemorated: The finding of The Holy Cross and the return of The Cross from Persia to Jerusalem.

In the Holy Land, the Empress Helen searched for The Cross of Christ. It was revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. Three crosses were found. The archbishop & patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem told them to have a sick woman touch the crosses, when The Cross was touched she became well.

The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" *This is exactly what we do in church as a commemoration of this day.*

Also small leafed basil was growing in the area, thus we use it to this day!

Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Roman Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius desired to carry The Cross on his back, but suddenly he was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias instructed the emperor to remove his royal raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, he carried it to Golgotha, placed it in the Church of the Resurrection.

Also on this day: We also celebrate the Roman Empress, St. Placilla, who was the wife of Emperor Theodosius the Great. In mind and deed, she was a true Christian. She was especially distinguished for helping the needy and the sick. When some people told her that this was not consistent with imperial dignity, she replied: "It becomes the imperial calling to assist with money; however, in my personal efforts concerning the poor, I give to Him who deigned to give me this calling." She rested in the Lord in 400AD.

Also on this day: Our Holy Father John Chrysostom archbishop and patriarch of Antioch & Constantinople fell asleep in the Lord. His actual day of celebration was moved to November 13.

from The Prologue from Ochrid, St. Nicolai Sept 14

Notes (September 2024)

Bible Study

Our **Bible Study**, will be on **Tuesdays @ 6:00-7:15pm.** (Starting **Sept 17.**)

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The Faith

For **everyone who is interested in becoming Orthodox** (all are welcome).

As we do every Fall, again we have our class on **The FAITH.** (For all interested in **Catechism.**)

Four Saturdays this Fall. @ 10:00-11:30am. (Starting **Sept 14.**....)

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“Kosmos visit”

On Thursday August 1, we hosted the Young Adult Exchange program KOSMOS. A group (26 people) from the Metropolis of Neapolis (Naples) in Macedonia (Greece).

Many of us worked hard to make the day be one of their best days in the US, even if it was extremely hot/humid. We had them for Lunch & Dinner, took them to Commercial St. in Portland, to Freeport & to the beach in Saco Bay! To close the day we went to see the fireworks in OOB!

Cannot thank enough the organizers, the chefs, and all who spent so much time & effort!!

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SPECIFICS about Fasting/Feasts (in September)

Saturday Sept 14, is the Feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross. Because it is the “instrument” of death (of the Savior), it becomes one of the three “extra” fast days of the year. We do not eat meats & dairy.

Please bring the **basil & flowers** to decorate the Cross.

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Confession

On **Sunday Sept 22**, 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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September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ecclesiastical New Year	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3	4	5	6 (oo/wine)	7
8 Sunday before the CROSS (Nativity of Theotokos) St. Fotini (right after Liturgy)	9	10	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> God bless America! </div>	12 6:00pm Ch. Council	13 (oo/wine)	14 ^{fast} 8:30am Liturgy The CROSS Του Σταυρου (need basil/flowers) <u>Cross Procession</u> 10:00am Catechism
15 Sunday after the CROSS Young Adults (right after Liturgy)	16	17 6:00pm Bible Study	18	19	20 (oo/wine)	21
22 1st Sunday of Luke <i>Confessions</i>	23 8:30am Liturgy Conception of Forerunner	24 6:00pm Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29 2nd Sunday of Luke <i>Winter Hours begin</i>	30					

Notes continued for September 2024

YOUTH Fall CAMP '23 METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Columbus day Weekend: Saturday Oct 12 - Monday Oct 14

REGISTER SOON.

GO TO: metropolisofbostoncamp.org

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Email/call to Fr Basil!

Please **do NOT email** Fr Basil.

Call the office or text him.

For appointments always connect with the office.

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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.

.....

JOSIAH SMALLEY sent a very nice thank you note and group picture.

Josiah was selected to attend the CrossRoadsProgram and absolutely loved being there. Please check out the bulletin board, Josiah is standing next to Father.

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BAKING BAKING... BEGINS TUESDAY, September 10TH, 9:00am.

The ladies wil begin baking for the Bazaar. Eveyone is welcome, whether you have an hour or more, your help is appreciated.

Any questions? See Vanja or Carol or Cindy.

ALSO... there is a St. Fotini meeting on Sunday, Sept. 8th, after Liturgy. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

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Wardwell Thank you.

"To all at St. Demetrios, we cannot thank you enough for your warm hospitality the day of our visit to the festival. You all work so hard and really did a magnificent job. Everything tasted delicious! Very nice to see your smiling faces and celebrate Greek culture and heritage. See you soon, Wardwell!"

P.S. the note was sent from Amber, Activities Director at Wardwell.

"In truth, God is everywhere. But where will we find Him? Is there nothing left for us to do but mourn with Mary Magdalene, crying: **'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they laid Him'** [John 20:13]? Our sins have removed the Lord from us, and we do not know where to seek Him. Someone may object: 'The Lord is with me, and I with Him. Because I believe in Him, and I pray and worship Him.' O if only the Lord arranged things this way — that He is with every Christian who prays and worships Him. Behold, it is not enough for salvation to only believe in Christ. As the holy Apostle James says: **'The demons believe, and tremble'** [James 2:19]. But our current issue is not with the demons. What profit is there for a Christian to believe in Christ, and yet lack Christian works? What use is there to pray to Christ, while trespassing His commandments? What is it to worship Christ, while grieving Him with lawless deeds? ... You pray to Christ, and then spit in His face — through your cursing, and through your disdain and judgment of your neighbor... If, as you claim, Christ is with you and you with Him, then prove it with your life. As the Apostle says: **'Show me your faith ... by [your] works'** [cf. James 2:18]."

Spiritual Guidance on the Christian Path, by St. Dimitry of Rostov

Gospel Reading, from the Gospel according to John 10:17-28

The Lord said to the Jews who came to him, **"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."**

There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. Many of them said, "He has a demon, and he is mad; why listen to him?" Others said, "These are not the sayings of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. **The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life.**"

Building Maintenance Update!

Everything stopped during the Festival period.

1. The “washing” is completed. It has been paid for. \$4,600.
2. Soon the trim/shingles repair/painting will begin. The Church painting began in May and is 50% complete to date. Proposed trim replacement work where it’s needed will begin this month. (Initial painting installment payment \$8,500.)
3. Our kitchen/Festival refrigerator/serving line has been bought & paid for.
4. Security Monitoring System: we have paid a deposit for the work to begin. Monitoring system was installed in June and has been paid in full. \$6,450. We added an additional monitor in Youth Space from original proposal.

The expenses: At our General Assembly on April 14th, we voted to spend up to \$90,000, this included a contingency.

- We received an **anonymous \$12,000 donation/gift** to cover the refrigerator/serving line replacement cost!
- Again to remind everyone: *The Lacones are donating \$30,000 towards this work! Pretty incredible!*
- **So far we have spent: \$19,550.**

❖ **A Reminder: Maintenance Work Breakdown**

- \$5,500 Power wash (*Entire building Incl. Stone, ground up*)
 - \$36,000 Painting (*Entire church*)
 - \$10,000 Exterior Trim (*Material and Labor*)
 - \$12,000 Festival equipment (*New Refrigerator and Drop-in Banquet Unit*)
 - \$6,000 New Security Monitoring System (*One-time Expense – No monthly or Annual Fees*)
-
- \$70,000 – Total (*For all items above*)
 - \$20,000 – Add Contingency

Monthly Financial Report. 8/14/2024

(Operating Budget 2024)

Mortgage Balance: \$96,035

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE as of July 31, 2024

Total Stewards: 157

Total Stewardship Received: \$110,747

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income (\$)</u>	<u>Expenses (\$)</u>	<u>Operating account (\$)</u>
January	\$22,632	\$21,277	\$1,355
February	\$40,905	\$31,845	\$10,414
March	\$12,548	\$19,854	\$3,110
April	\$25,951	\$26,924	\$2,136
May	\$19,184	\$21,156	\$774
June	\$22,267	\$23,747	-\$705
July	\$14,762	\$22,746	-\$7,984

We ended July in the **Red -\$7,984!** {Compare to 2023: -3,463}.

Our income is down by \$8,000 (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

Our Expenses are down by \$3,000 (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

Compare: Year to date:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Income:	\$166,262	\$158,249
Total Expenses:	\$169,343	\$166,838

Thank You!!

Let our giving reflect our faith!

For those who devote themselves to prayer, it is especially important to practice the publican's prayer and to maintain contrition of heart, else they will be deceived by the demons and fall into high-mindedness, spiritual pride and vanity. May the Lord protect us from such a state.

Abbot Nikon Vorobiev, Abbot Nikon Letters to Spiritual Children, p.47

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



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The 'Image-icon' of God in man *is sick*, but not dead.

The divine image-icon, is in need of healing, but this *healing requires synergy*
(the co-operation of man's will with divine grace).

~ St. John Cassian

Saint Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

186 Bradley Street

Saco, ME 04072

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