

# ST. DEMETRIOS

Volume XXXV, No 09

Saco, Maine

OCTOBER 2024

## St. Demetrios **25 year Celebration!** **Sunday October 20!** (115 years in Maine)

&

90 Years the **Lacones** Association

*Gala (Γαλα) Celebration:*

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

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*Our*

**Metropolitan Methodios**

*will be with us on that day!*

you are invited....

# CELEBRATION GALA

Sunday, The 20th of October, 2024

12:00PM to 6:00PM

**His Eminence Methodios**  
will be with us

**Dunegrass Ballroom**  
Old Orchard Beach, ME

**Bountiful Buffet Luncheon**  
**Children's Luncheon**

**Music By The Salonika Boys**

**Adults \$60**

**Children (12 & under) \$12**

Please make checks payable to St. Demetrios

**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

## Festival VERY successful Report

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

Approx. **Gross Income**: \$ 165,000 > **\$165,789**

Approx. **Estimated Expenses**: \$ 70,000 > **\$71,511**

Approx. **Estimated Net Income**: \$ 95,000 > **\$94,278**

***Congratulations! And Thank You!***

9-20, 2024

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## Nominating Committee

Every two years we have Elections for serving on the Church Council. In 2025 we will have a new two year term for Church Council.

We need five (5) members of the Community who oversee the process – this is the NOMINATING Committee.

On **Sunday October 27**, we will have a short **General Assembly** for 5 members to step forth & be accepted as the Nominating Committee.

*(To be a member of the Community, one must be a member of the Faith & financially part of the Stewardship Program.)*

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## “Let’s talk Finance” Update 2024

On Sunday **November 17**, we are planning an **UPDATE** to go over *all our Finances*.

With the new year (2025) we annually have to have a new Operating Budget & in January-February we present and vote on that Budget.

*This is different.*

We will have an Assembly to **present & discuss** *all our Finances* with **no decision making**. This way everyone can ask questions and become aware of the many great Blessings we have received & where we stand Financially – “soup to nuts”.

# THE GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIOS OF THESSALONIKI

*St. Nicholai Velimirovich*

*(October 26)*

This glorious and wonderworking saint was born in Thessalonica of noble and devout parents. Implored of God by childless parents, Demetrius was their only son, and so was raised and educated with great care. Demetrius's father was a commander in Thessalonica.

When his father died, Emperor Maximian appointed Demetrius as commander in his place. As he appointed him, Maximian, an opponent of Christ, particularly recommended that he persecute and exterminate the Christians in Thessalonica. Demetrius not only disobeyed the emperor but openly confessed and preached the Lord Jesus Christ in the city of Thessalonica.

When the emperor heard of this he became furious with Demetrius. Then, when he was returning from battle against the Sarmatians, Maximian stopped at Thessalonica to investigate the matter.

The emperor summoned Demetrius and questioned him about his faith. He openly acknowledged his Christian Faith to the emperor and also denounced the emperor's idolatry. Maximian cast Demetrius into prison. Knowing what was awaiting him, Demetrius gave all his goods to his faithful servant Lupus to distribute to the poor, and joyfully awaited his imminent suffering for Christ the Lord.

An angel of God appeared to him in prison, saying: "Peace be to you, O sufferer of Christ; be brave and be strong!" After several days, the emperor sent soldiers to the prison to kill Demetrius. The soldiers found the saint of God at prayer and ran him through with lances. Christians secretly took his body and honorably buried it. Healing myrrh flowed from the body of the martyr of Christ, curing many of the sick. Soon, a small church was built over his relics.

An Illyrian nobleman, Leontius, was afflicted with an incurable illness. He hastened, with prayer to the relics of St. Demetrius and was completely healed. In thanksgiving, Leontius erected a much larger church on the site of the old church. The saint appeared to him on two occasions.

When Emperor Justinian wanted to translate the relics of the saint from Thessalonica to Constantinople, flaming sparks sprang from the tomb and a voice was heard: "Stop, and do not touch!" And thus, the relics of St. Demetrius have remained for all time in Thessalonica.

As the protector of Thessalonica, St. Demetrius has appeared many times, and on many occasions has saved Thessalonica from great calamity. His miracles are without number. The Russians considered St. Demetrius to be the protector of Siberia, which was conquered and annexed to Russia on October 26, 1581.

## **A Miracle**

Demetrius was a commander of Thessalonica during his life and remained so after his repose. People have felt his presence in Thessalonica, especially in times of great calamities. He protects the city, wards off misfortunes, repels invaders, and helps all who invoke his name.

Here is a wonderful example of his unusual aid to people in need.

Once, the barbarians attacked Thessalonica and were unable to overtake it. Infuriated at this, they pillaged the countryside and bound and carried off two beautiful maidens whom they gave as a gift to their prince. These maidens knew how to embroider well. When the prince saw their handiwork, he said to them: "I hear that there is a great god in your land, Demetrius, and that he works great miracles. Embroider his face on this linen." The maidens told him that St. Demetrius was not a god but rather God's servant and the helper of Christians. At first, they refused to embroider the face of the saint, but when the prince threatened them with death, they carried out the command and completed the task by St. Demetrius's Day. On the eve of the feast, they looked at their embroidery and wept sorrowfully, as they had to spend the feast day in slavery and had to give that embroidered image of their beloved saint to an impious barbarian. Both maidens prayed to St. Demetrius to forgive them. Then St. Demetrius appeared to them and took them both away, as an angel had once taken the Prophet Habakkuk. He brought them to Thessalonica and set them in his church. A solemn all-night vigil was being celebrated, and many people were there. When they learned of the miraculous rescue of these Christian maidens, all glorified God and St. Demetrius, His great servant and commander.

## **Another Miracle**

That the saints of God live, clothed in great glory and might in the heavens, Orthodox Christians know, not by their own reasoning, but by the true help and visitations of the saints. At times the saints appear so that men may see and hear them; at times, only to be either seen or heard; at times, though unseen and unheard, they influence our thoughts, our dispositions and our actions.

Among the many miracles of St. Demetrius in Thessalonica the following is recorded:

A young man named Onesiphorus was appointed to the service of sacristan in the Church of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica. His primary task was to keep an account of the candles and lampadas. This young man began to steal candles, take them home, and then resell them. St. Demetrius appeared to him and said: "Brother Onesiphorus, your action is not pleasing to me, for you are stealing candles. By this, you bring harm to others and especially to yourself. Cease doing this and repent!" Onesiphorus was frightened and ashamed and, for a time, stopped stealing candles. But he eventually forgot himself, and again began to steal candles. One morning, a distinguished man brought some large candles to the tomb of the saint, lit them, prayed and left. Onesiphorus approached the candles and stretched forth his hand with the intention of taking them, but at that moment a voice like thunder roared: "Are you doing that again?!" As though struck by lightning, Onesiphorus fell to the ground, unconscious. When someone came into the church he found him and lifted him up off the floor; he gradually came to himself and related all that had happened. Everyone was astonished, and glorified God.

# Notes (October 2024)

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## **Bible Study**

Our **Bible Study**, is on **Tuesdays @ 6:00-7:15pm**.  
Please *check calendar*, since a number of weeks we *will not* meet.  
The Epistle of St Paul to the **EPHESSIANS**.

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## **The Faith**

For **everyone who is interested in becoming Orthodox** (all are welcome).  
Our class on **The FAITH**. (For all interested in **Catechism**.)  
**Saturday Nov. 2 & 9 @ 10:00-11:30am.**

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## **YOUTH Fall CAMP '24 METROPOLIS OF BOSTON**

*Columbus day Weekend: Saturday Oct 12 - Monday Oct 14*  
[metropolisofbostoncamp.org](http://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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## **2025 DAILY LIVES CALENDAR ... time to pre-order**

*Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints, with Fasting Calendar*

We have been pre-ordering this Calendar for the past 25+ years. Those of you that have purchased it, know the wonderful value and spiritual benefit we receive with each day's reading. It contains: Daily Reading (Synaxarion), Epistle & Gospel, The Feast of the day and the Commemorations. Spiral Bound, great as a gift and for yourself.

- **Cost: \$22.00**
- **Order by Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**
- **Make check payable to: St. Demetrios Bookstore**
- **Pay when the calendars come in.**
- **Order from Stephanie, 207-284-5651**

**From St. Fotini ...  
Attention all crafters and food enthusiasts!**

The St. Fotini Bazaar is just around the corner, happening on **Saturday, November 23rd**.

We are excited to announce that we will once again feature a Specialty Table, a Craft Table, and a Jewelry Table. These tables are a fantastic way to raise funds, often covering a month of church cleaning expenses.

We encourage everyone to contribute either a delicious culinary creation or a handmade craft. There are so many talented people in our community, and this is a perfect chance for those who are busy during the week to get involved. Please consider making a contribution!

If you have any questions or need inspiration for food ideas, reach out to Anna Zafirson at [azafirson@maine.rr.com](mailto:azafirson@maine.rr.com), or call her at 207-283-3213 (home) or 207-423-9709 (cell).

For craft ideas, contact Judy Caras at [jcaras1@maine.rr.com](mailto:jcaras1@maine.rr.com) or call 207-883-8208 (landline).

**We look forward to your participation!**

**Thank you from His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios**

“Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful hospitality offered to the Young adults of the **KOSMOS PROJECT**. Our guests from Greece truly enjoyed visiting Maine and especially your beautiful Parish. The lobster dinner, church tour and fireworks on the beach remain a highlight of their trip. During their two weeks stay, the group participated in our Metropolis of Boston Camp program and had the opportunity to tour many parishes throughout New England as well as many historical sites.

The youth from our Metropolis likewise experienced **the summer camp program of the Metropolis of Neapolis** and explored their faith and cultural identity through visiting sites of both religious and cultural importance in northern Greece. This will be a wonderful experience for our young adults, truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Thanking you again and praying that our Lord continues to bless you and your family with every heavenly gift, I remain, with Archpastoral love, Methodios, Metropolitan of Boston.”

# October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  NO Bible Study	2	3	4	5
6 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke  St. Fotini (right after Liturgy)	7	8  6:00pm Bible Study	9	10  6:00pm Church Council	11	12
13 Sunday of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Church Council	14	15  6:00pm Bible Study	16 8:30am Liturgy St. Dionysios, Αγ Διονυσίου	17	18	19
20 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke	21	22  6:00pm Bible Study	23 (oo/wine)	24	25  6:00pm Feast GREAT Vespers w/ visiting clergy & Arto (need Arto & oil)	26 8:30am (part of) Orthros & 9:00am Liturgy St. Demetrios, Αγ Δημητρίου
27 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  Nominating Committee	28 ?? Liturgy, Holy Protection, Αγ Σκεπη OXI – Day	29  6:00pm Bible Study	30	31		

**25 YEARS!**  
**FOUNDED IN 1909!**  
**IN SACO: JANUARY 2, 2000!**



## Notes continued for October 2024

**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.

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### **BAKING BAKING... TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 9:00am.**

The ladies have started baking for the Bazaar. Everyone 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, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, after Liturgy. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

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### **MARY PAPOUTSY message:**

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd, 7:30pm. Free public lecture by Oxford Univ. Specialist, Prof. Rhiannon Ash, 210 Hamilton Smith Hall, 95 Main St, Durham, NH.

**FMI: Please check our bulletin board.**

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**HELLENIC SOCIETY OF MAINE** has different events scheduled for October.

- **Sun. Oct 6, 3:15pm.** LIVE... film viewing of *The Ogre of Athens (O Drakos) 1956* by Nikos Koudouros, Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall at USM, Portland.
- **Sat. Oct. 19, 3:00pm.** LIVE. *Myths of the Night Sky*, Planetarium, Science Building, USM Portland.  
*Adults \$8, Seniors & Children under 12, \$7.50 (Cash preferred). Limited seating. No reservations.*
- **Tues. Oct. 22, 5:00pm, Greek Trivia night** via ZOOM. *Make some snacks, and join in for an hour of fun.*  
**Zoom link:** [novak@maine.edu](mailto:novak@maine.edu)

## **KEEP THE FAITH !**

### **With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man: The Spiritual Counsels of St. Paisios the Athonite**

*“With God’s permission, a strong jolt will come our way. Difficult times lie ahead. We will be greatly tested. We have to take this warning seriously, and live spiritually. It is circumstances that are forcing us, and will force us in the future, to labor spiritually. But we should try to do so by choice and joyfully, rather than by necessity — when various sorrows come upon us. Many Saints would plead to live in our times, so that they would have a chance to struggle for Christ. ... In the past, when a war broke out, one was vigilant; and took up arms to fight the enemy, and defend His Homeland, his nation and his family. Today, it’s not our Homeland that we are called to protect and fight for, ... nor are we called to struggle for a nation or for an ideology. Today it is either for Jesus that we are called to arms, or the devil. ... Have no doubt about it; we will become witnesses to horrific events. There will be spiritual battles. The Saints will become holier, and those who live in filth will get filthier. Yet I feel a great consolation inside. This storm shall pass too. Our struggle counts, because it is not a struggle against Ali Pasha, or against Hitler or Mussolini, but against the devil himself. For this reason, our wages will be heavenly. May God, being the Good God that He is, take all that is evil and turn it into good. Amen.”*

# Building Maintenance Update!

September 20, 2024

1. The “washing” is completed and paid for. **\$4,600.**
2. The Church painting began in May and is 75% complete to date. Proposed trim replacement work, where it’s needed, began in August and is 50%+ complete. (Payments to date: **\$20,500**).
3. Our kitchen/Festival refrigerator/serving line has been bought & paid for.
4. Security Monitoring System: was installed in June and paid in full. \$6,450. (We added an additional monitor in Youth Space from original proposal.)

The expenses: At our General Assembly on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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: \$31,550.**

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## ❖ **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. 9/14/2024

(Operating Budget 2024)

Mortgage Balance: \$96,035

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE *as of August 31, 2024*

Total Stewards: 160

Total Stewardship Received: \$121,334

<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
August	\$13,825	\$23,282	-18,046

We ended July in the **Red** **-\$18,046!** {Compare to 2023: -8,912}.

**Our income is down by \$7,000** (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

**Our Expenses are up by \$2,000** (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

Compare: Year to date:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Income:	<b>\$179,442</b>	<b>\$172,074</b>
Total Expenses:	<b>\$188,354</b>	<b>\$190,120</b>

## ***Thank You!!***

### **Let our giving reflect our faith!**

#### My Panaghia

**'My Panaghia, I'm reminding you now of your words when you were consoling us, that you would be and always remain our guardian, our nurturer, and our healer. Where am I the lowly one, now to take refuge in my condition in order to find consolation?'**

*Elder Ephraim was in so much pain (an inflammation from childhood) that increased because of the physical labors etc. He ever so slowly made his way to the tiny chapel, and setting forth his grievance, he began to cry before the icon of the Panaghia.*

**Elder Ephraim (Obedience is Life, p143)**

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



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*St. Fotini  
Ladies Society*

# Saint Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

## Sunday Services:

9:00 AM Orthros

Divine Liturgy by 10:00 AM

**Winter hours start September 29.**

*Fr. Basil Arabatzis, Presbyter*

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

**Website:** [stdemetriosofmaine.com](http://stdemetriosofmaine.com)

**Church:** (207) 284-5651

**FAX:** (207) 283-4641

**Home:** (207) 284-6170

St. Gabriel (Urgebadze) of *Samtavro*

Fr. Gabriel showed us another world, he showed us Christ—living and active. He healed people with his word, with his prayer. I wanted to be with him, to listen to him, to see how people change: They would come as unbelievers and leave as believers. Leaving the “fairytale” world of theater and cinema, I entered a world even more amazing! Fr. Gabriel poured out love and wisdom on people and gave them hope. And most importantly, we ourselves were changing, and we felt it. *We thought the Apostles must have experienced basically the same thing when they were with Christ.*

*from Orthodox Christianity*

## Saint Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

186 Bradley Street

Saco, ME 04072

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