

# ST. DEMETRIOS

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Volume XXXV, No 10

Saco, Maine

NOVEMBER 2024

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*With the Grace of our Good God,  
And only with His Grace,*

***Our Community has been and is being  
blessed in abundant ways!***

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, in the Services we were super full. Then, at the Luncheon we had to turn people away – *no* more room!

**In two months (January 2) we will complete our 25 years  
in our new church....**

**Now for the next 25....**

*A Blessed*

**Thanksgiving**

**to all of us,**

**our families,**

**our friends**

**and everyone!**

## A Stewardship Renewal!

**We have completed our 25 years** in our new church-temple.

**Now we move to the next 25.**

A quick reflection and note on our Stewardship as true members of the Household of God, here in southern Maine.

All of us have been gifted (graced) by our Good Lord in abundant ways. Because of our faith and the work we have done through it, we see the results as a Community. We are witnesses of God's presence in our little corner of the world.

Ask anyone who has visited us, or lives by our church, or from other churches, both Orthodox or not.

*Ask anyone....*

And we continue.... we try to have our Spiritual Life in order and we take care of our church Community, all who "knock" on our doors and even outside our Community.

In December, you will receive the STEWARDSHIP mailing for 2025. It will include a little pamphlet, *consider it carefully*. Families should discuss it together.

1. How will I (we) give seriously to our Lord to continue His work.
2. How will I (we) serve my brother & sister in our community and in the greater community.
3. In Thanksgiving I (we) do make a difference.

***This is what is expected from you,***

***This is what is expected from me!***

Please **Make & Complete your 2024 Stewardship Giving.**

*(Questions? Contact Fr Basil or the office.)*



**ST. FOTINI**  
**2024 BAZAAR!**

**AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD**  
**DELICIOUS GREEK PASTRIES**

*The ladies are preparing the foods and pastries you love!*

Savory items and breads (frozen) available for online  
preorder, prepay sales Nov. 13th - 20th.

Pick up at Bazaar, Nov 23, 10:00 am - 3:00pm.

**Pastries are available for in-person  
sales the day of the Bazaar.**

**Browse our delicious Home Baked Goods,  
Greek Market and Crafts.**

**Gyros available all day to eat in or take out.**

**Nov 23, 2024**  
**(10 am to 3 pm)**

*A limited number of frozen food orders  
can be taken by phone. Call Toni 207-934-2159.*

*For more information and to order  
[stdemetriosofmaine.com](http://stdemetriosofmaine.com)*

# ST. DEMETRIOS

**Greek Orthodox Church**

**Metropolis of Boston**

**Archdiocese of America**

186 Bradley St. - Saco, Maine, 04072

(207) 284-5651 - fax (207) 282-9505

+Fr. Basil Arabatzis

Presiding Presbyter

10/29/2024

Anastasia the Roman

## **Church Council Elections**

**(Nominating form.)**

Church Council Elections have been scheduled for Sunday December 8th.

All members of the church of St. Demetrios who are Ecclesiastically (which includes financially) in good standing, are eligible to be a candidate & vote. If interested please fill out this form and mail it or bring it in, but to be received not later than Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am (by the end of the Liturgy). Use only this form for submitting your name for the candidacy of the Church Council. Please return it to the office.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print your name in full), a member in good standing of the church of St. Demetrios, do hereby submit my intention to be considered as a candidate for the election to the Church Council of St. Demetrios.

I understand and accept that I must be present and participate in the Leadership/Church Council Seminar on Thursday Dec. 5 @ 6:00pm. This Seminar will deal with the responsibilities/duties of those who serve our Lord's Church in this capacity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Mail or return to:

St. Demetrios Election Committee

186 Bradley St.

Saco, ME 04072

**Office Use Only:** Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

# ST. DEMETRIOS

## *Greek Orthodox Church*

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

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Fr. Basil Arabatzis  
Presiding Presbyter

St. Demetrios  
October 26, 2024

## General Assembly

**On Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> we will have our General Assembly for the Church Council members (2025-2026).** (In the event that on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, *the deadline for name submissions*, there were no extra names as compared to the spots available, we do not have elections, since names that have been accepted automatically become part of the Council.)

### **The Agenda:**

#### **Opening Prayer**

- 1. Election of Chairman of Assembly.**
- 2. Elections.**

#### **Closing Prayer**

Note: In order to vote, one must be a member in good standing (Orthodox with no impediments & financially part of our Stewardship Program).

If inclement weather, the Assembly will be held the following fair weather Sunday.

*(signature on file)*

+Fr Basil Arabatzis  
Presbyter

*(signature on file)*

Adriana Popa  
Financial Secretary

# Preparing for *Christmas!*

Saturday Dec. 14,  
*at our Church.*

Day Program with Camp Counselors

**All children** are invited to join us.

Friends are welcome.

For information: please contact Lisa @:

Email: lisatompk@gmail.com

Call or text: 207-286-6526

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## **Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos**

The Feast is celebrated on November 21 each year, and it commemorates when as a young child, the Virgin Mary entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days."

Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity-CHRISTMAS.

from: ***Entrance of the Theotokos Skete***

*Hayesville Ohio*

# *Saint Fotini*

## GREEK BAZAAR 2024 - ORDER FORM - FROZEN ITEMS ONLY

All Pre-Orders begin Nov. 13th. Make online orders/payment at  
[www.StDemetriosOfMaine.com](http://www.StDemetriosOfMaine.com)

Difficulties ordering online? Please call Toni at (207) 934-2159 to place your order.

Check/cash payment for phone/paper orders must be received by Nov. 19.

All Pre-Orders are available for Pick-Up during the Bazaar, Saturday Nov 23rd, 10 am - 3 pm!

Greek Pastries and Specialty Items will also be available for purchase during the Bazaar.

**Pick up during Bazaar Saturday Nov 23rd, 10 am - 3 pm**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	Price	SUM
	SPANAKOPITA - 9"x13" pan, Frozen, thaw and reheat	\$30.00	
	KOTOPITA - 6 individual pitas/pieces - dinner size, Frozen, ready to bake	\$30.00	
	PASTITSIO - 8"x8" deep pan, Frozen, thaw and reheat	\$30.00	
	APPETIZER MIX - 12 mini pitas of each: Spanakopita, Cheese, Mushroom - 36 in all - Frozen in bags, ready to bake	\$32.00	
	SWEET BREAD, Frozen	\$20.00	
	PUMPKIN STRUDEL, bag of 12 pieces, Home Made, Frozen ready to bake	\$12.00	
		TOTAL	

Please pay by check or cash. Make checks payable to: St Fotini Ladies Society.

*Thank you!*

# November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke	4	5 6:00pm Bible Study/ Faith	6	7	8 8:30am Liturgy Synaxis of Host of Heaven, Συναξις Αρχαγγελων	9 8:30am Liturgy St. Nectarios, Αγ Νεκταριου
10 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke <b>Pastitsio/Loukanico w/ Fasolakia lunch</b>	11 <i>Veterans Day God bless America!</i>	12 12:00pm St Fotini meeting 6:00pm Bible Study/ Faith	13	14 6:00pm Ch Council	<b>NATIVITY FAST BEGINS!</b>	
17 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke <b>Finance Update</b> Assembly & <b>Nominating forms due</b>	18	19 6:00pm Bible Study/ Faith	20	21 8:30am Liturgy – Entrance of Theotokos Τα Εισοδια της Θεοτοκου	22	23 <b><u>Bazaar</u></b>
<b>NATIVITY FAST</b>						
24 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke <i>Confessions</i>	25 8:30am Liturgy St. Catherine, Αγ Αικατερινη	26	27	28 Office closed	29 Office closed	30
<b>Blessed Thanksgiving</b>						
<b>NATIVITY FAST</b>						



**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!**

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**ST. DEMETRIOS PHILANTHROPIC FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

*...from Stephanie*

We rarely ask for your help with the Philanthropic Fund since so much is already asked of you. Unfortunately, we have reached the point where we have barely enough in the checking account to cover one more purchase of Hannaford gift cards. With Thanksgiving and Christmas around the corner, we will need to buy some soon enough!

Just so everyone is aware, we only purchase Hannaford cards for a couple of reasons. There are locations in Biddeford and Saco, both within driving and walking distance. They are also the only store whereby it states on the card: "Not to be used for alcohol products". (Hannaford does not sell tobacco products.) More importantly, winter in Maine is a challenging time for everyone, especially for our stewards in need of assistance.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Please make your check payable to St. Demetrios Philanthropic Fund. You may either mail it (attn: Stephanie on the envelope); or give it to Fr. Basil or Stephanie.

Thank you.

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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 Readings (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, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**
- **Make check payable to: St. Demetrios Bookstore.**
- **Pay when the calendars come in.**
- **Order from Stephanie, 207-284-5651.**

## *St. Fotini Ladies Society*

### *Annual Community Christmas Card Fundraiser to Benefit St. Demetrios Church Janitorial fund.*

***Deadline November 24<sup>th</sup>***

***PLEASE ENCLOSE PAYMENT WITH REQUEST***

***Please send check and entire form to:***

*St. Fotini Ladies Society  
c/o Toni Spirounias  
186 Bradley Street  
Saco, ME 04072*

*Email: [tspirounias@yahoo.com](mailto:tspirounias@yahoo.com)*

*Please make checks payable to: St. Fotini  
in the amount of \$25.00. **Cash or checks only.***

***PLEASE... put Attn: Toni on the envelope, if you mail your request.***

*Your name(s), as you want it to appear on the card. One line, maximum 55 letters.*

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*(Name on this line. Please print legibly.)*

*In order to ensure delivery before Christmas, your check and form must be received no later than November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please be mindful of this deadline, as we will not be extending it due to the problems and delays it causes in getting out the cards in a timely fashion.*

*Many thanks for your support.*

# Notes (November 2024)

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## **Bible Study** — The Epistle of St Paul to the **EPHESSIANS**.

Our **Bible Study**, is on **Tuesdays @ 6:00-7:15pm**.

Does not meet Thanksgiving week. Last one on Dec. 3.

## **THE NATIVITY FAST, ADVENT.** — **November 15 (28) - December 24** (January 6)

The Christmas Fast is similar to that of the Apostles' Fast in June. We abstain from meat and dairy products.

The custom is to begin every day with a little Holy Water & Antidhoron, if we are attending Liturgy. (Pick up at the church.)

On Wednesdays and Fridays we also do not eat fish, olive oil and wine. On the other days, it is permitted to eat fish along with o/o and wine. Also for Great Feast Days—for example on the Entrance of the Mother of God (Nov 21)—patron saints' days, and special saint's days, we have fish. During the last 12 days preceding Christmas the fast become stricter; we completely abstain from fish.

## **Confession** — On **Sunday Nov. 24**, after Liturgy, Fr Basil will remain in church for short (10 min.) confession.

Please call office to be put on list.

## **Daily Liturgies**

As we do every year, starting Dec 1, we again will begin the *daily Liturgies in our side chapel of the Life Giving Spring*.

We need: the Offering - Prosforo every day; **NO** wine; Oil; **EXTRA** Large CANDLES \$9 a piece (a total of about a dozen – *NOT the large ones @ the Pangari* - ask Fr Basil OR in the office).

The times will be **ALMOST the same as last year** – check the **December** Newsletter Calendar.

## **Email/call to Fr Basil!**

Please **do NOT email** Fr Basil. Call the office or text him. For appointments always connect with the office.

## **Let it Snow!!** — Remember, in case of **INCLEMENT** weather **always call first for any & all activities/services!!**

**OUR ST. FOTINI LADIES** have been working many hours for the Bazaar to be held on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>... Thanks to each and every one. We continue to bake and bag items, your ongoing help is appreciated. We also need crafts & items for the Specialty table.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** at the October 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly include Sam Anagnostis, Cindy Carr, Dr. Phil Kowash, Maria Zafirson and Chris Hadiaris.

**FESTIVAL FIGURES:** Income \$165,789, Expenses \$73,911, with net income \$91,878. Needless to say, "lots of work folks"... but so grateful. A very big thank you to everyone. God Bless!

**GALA CELEBRATION.** While we do not have set figures to share, we do want to say a very BIG THANK YOU to the Lacones Assn for sponsoring a much appreciated event. Everyone had a great time... especially the children, they were so much fun to watch!!! We were so blessed to have 250 (plus) attend, everyone enjoyed the day and... in fact many said "let's do it again"! Thank you for sharing the day, for the food and the great company. To Steven Boucouvalas, President of the Lacones, and for the entire group, this turned out to be the event of the year. Again, many thanks and God Bless!

**SACO FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR 2024** — Our annual food drive for the Saco Food Pantry is here. Please consider picking up some of the following items. We are asking that you only bring these items because the Food Pantry recipients rely on hot "winter foods". Thank you. Please leave your items in the Narthex of the Church.

- **Chunky Soups or Hearty Soups**
- **Complete Pancake Mix (buy only Complete)**
- **Pancake Syrup**
- **Canned Pasta or Canned Dinty Moore Stew or Chili**

## **TWO CARVED ICONS AVAILABLE. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**

Once again, we are blessed with two donated carved Icons, one of the Panaghia and one of St. Nicholas. Minimum donation is \$400 (each). To benefit St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. Please see Fr. Basil or Stephanie if you are interested.

# Monthly Financial Report. 10/14/2024

## (Operating Budget 2024)

Mortgage Balance: \$96,035

### STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE as of September 30, 2024

Total Stewards: 173

Total Stewardship Received: \$136,554

<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
September	\$19,729	\$21,292	-\$19,609

We ended September in the **Red -\$19,609!** {Compare to 2023: -17,178}.

**Our income is down by \$2,000** (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

**Our Expenses are the SAME** (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

Compare: Year to date:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Income:	\$194,239	\$191,803
Total Expenses:	\$211,094	\$211,411

***Thank You!!***

**Let our giving reflect our faith!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Building Maintenance update**

- \* Power washing has been completed & paid for - \$4,600
- \* Surveillance/Security System has been completed & paid for - \$6,451
- \* The Painting # 1 & # 2 has been paid - \$20,000
- \* Cedar Shingles are being replaced, where needed, cost-to-date - \$1,143
- \* Re-stripping parking lot - \$937
- \* To-date: total St. Demetrios expenditures are \$33,131.
- \* Refrigerator & Hot Food Well Unit paid for by an anonymous donor - \$11,676
- \* The Lacones have donated \$30,000 towards our maintenance project.

At the April 4th General Assembly, a vote was taken to proceed with maintenance repairs up to \$90,000.

- Future expected expenses: \$59,000
- Exterior painting: \$22,000
- Exterior cedar shingles: \$7,000
- Exterior trim: \$10,000
- Contingency: \$20,000

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



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**OUR 90<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

*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

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

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

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

**As a hart longs for flowing streams,  
so longs my soul for You, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

*Ps 42:1-2*

**Saint Demetrios**

Greek Orthodox Church

186 Bradley Street

Saco, ME 04072

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**