

# ST. DEMETRIOS

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Volume XXXVI, No 02

Saco, Maine

FEBRUARY 2025

**INCREDIBLY amazing!**

**A GREAT Thank You!!**

It is during January/February, every year, that we look over (carefully) The Operating Budget!

For 2024, again our Stewardship Income has INCREASED.

YOUR GENEROUS GIVING made all the difference in having a RELATIVELY SMALL DEFICIT for 2024!

Sunday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> we have our **General Assembly** to vote on the Proposed 2025 Operating Budget and the Fire Suppression System (as reviewed on Sun. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>).

We ask everyone who is a member to come & vote.

Again - **Thank you!**

*PS: The Budget is Included in this Newsletter.*

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We will be in **the Triodion** beginning on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>!

# ST. DEMETRIOS

*Greek Orthodox Church*

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Archdiocese of America

186 Bradley Street

Saco, ME 04072

(207) 284-5651 Ph (207) 283-4651 Fax

Fr. Basil Arabatzis  
Presiding Presbyter

Theophany  
Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Operating Budget 2025

### General Assembly

On **Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>** we will have our **General Assembly to vote on the 2025 Operating BUDGET & the Fire Suppression System.** Right after the Div. Liturgy.

#### **The Agenda:**

#### **Opening Prayer**

- 1. Election of Chairman of Assembly.**
- 2. Presentation & vote on our 2025 Operating Budget.**
- 3. Fire Suppression System.**

#### **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

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 9th</b>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 16th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 23rd</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 2nd</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 9th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 16th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 23rd</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 30th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 6th</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 13th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 18th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 20th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

## 2024 EXPENSES with 2025 BUDGET EXPECTED EXPENSES

	2023	2024	2024	2025
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
1 ARCHDIOCESE BENEFITS	10,968	11,222	11,220	11,478
2 DIOCESE'S FAIRSHARE	37,158	38,347	38,352	39,426
3 CH VEHICLE EXPENSES	3,000	3,000	2,893	2,940
4 PRIEST SALARY	66,500	68,400	68,400	73,530
5 PRIEST FICA	13,744	15,172	15,172	16,309
6 PRIEST MEDICAL	29,225	18,000	13,812	14,100
7 PRIEST HOUSING	27,256	30,756	30,756	33,063
8 SECRETARY SALARY	37,600	40,868	39,842	42,925
9 SEC'S PAYROLL TAXES	3,293	3,132	3,060	3,249
10 CHURCH/HALL SUPPLIES	2,329	2,340	1,769	1,800
11 CONFERENCES/SEMINARS	200	1,200	3,848	3,900
12 COPIER MAINTENANCE	238	320	388	390
13 INSURANCE EXPENSE	12,789	12,820	14,076	17,332
14 MAILINGS	2,452	2,460	3,228	3,300
15 MAINTENANCE	7,135	7,200	7,284	7,320
16 MISCELLANEOUS	5,363	5,400	3,474	5,100
17 OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,040	1,680	2,087	2,100
18 PRINTING	211	220	3,359	3,360
19 SECURITY	2,259	4,800	6,990	600
20 WATER & SEWAGE	3,082	3,120	4,181	2,410
21 ELECTRIC	5,974	6,000	6,140	7,000
22 PROPANE	6,891	6,900	4,740	4,800
23 TELEPHONE & INTERNET	3,616	3,660	3,017	3,121
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>282,323</b>	<b>287,017</b>	<b>288,090</b>	<b>299,552</b>
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>292,091</b>	<b>273,264</b>	<b>284,000</b>	<b>284,865</b>
<b>INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>9,768</b>	<b>(13,753)</b>	<b>(4,090)</b>	<b>(14,687)</b>

### NOTES 2024:

- Archdiocese Benefits up 2.3% from 2024
  - Diocese's "Fair Share" up 2.7% from 2024
  - Liability insurance up 16% from 2024
  - Workers Comp insurance up 10% from 2024
  - **St. Demetrios Special Needs CD** was cashed out in 2024 to pay for the Church's exterior building needs. The remaining balance is in the General Savings account.
  - **Our expenses** have increased by \$5,767, while **our GIVING stayed strong!**
- Our **STEWARDSHIP** increased steadily, having received some substantial donations, especially in December, when our income was a phenomenal \$65,484!

**2024 INCOME with 2025 BUDGET EXPECTED INCOME**

	2023	2024	2024	2025
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
1 SACRAMENTAL (Baptisms, Weddings & Memorials)	19,045	12,000	7,646	9,000
2 LITURGICAL (Candles, Trays & Coffee Hours)	41,410	36,000	39,735	40,000
3 GENERAL (General, Newsletter Ads & Vigil lights)	28,053	22,200	14,694	22,200
4 SACRED FEASTS (Christmas & Pascha)	9,591	9,000	9,471	9,500
5 STEWARDSHIPS	193,859	193,992	212,292	204,000
6 INTEREST INCOME	133	72	162	165
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>292,091</b>	<b>273,264</b>	<b>284,000</b>	<b>284,865</b>

**ASSETS (as of 12/31/2024)**

Accounts	Balance
OPERATING ACCOUNT	32,942
GENERAL SAVINGS	106,635
DESIGNATED FUNDS	110,176
FESTIVAL - ACTIVITIES FUND	42,796
FESTIVAL - START UP CASH	30,000
PAPAS CD	117,542
GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT	70,620
LADAKAKOS/ARABATZIS/ZAFIRSON/GIKAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	30,759
<b>TOTAL CASH ASSETS</b>	<b>541,470</b>

**Mortgage Loan - 7.81% as of 07/01/24**

**07/26/24 Principal paid \$2,973.85**

**Interest paid \$8,253.93**

**Total payment \$11,277.78**

Original Loan Amount                      240,000

Principal Paid                                      143,965

**Balance Due                                      96,035**

**Monthly Financial Report.** 01/27/2025  
 (Operating Budget **2024**)

*Mortgage Balance: \$96,035*

**End of the Year**

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE** *as of December 31, 2024*

Total Stewards: 182

Total Stewardship Received: \$212,292

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income (\$)</u>	<u>Expenses (\$)</u>	<u>Operating account (\$)</u>
January	\$22,632	\$21,277	\$1,355
February	\$40,905	\$31,712	\$10,416
March	\$12,548	\$19,854	\$3,110
April	\$25,951	\$26,315	\$2,746
May	\$19,184	\$20,775	\$1,155
June	\$22,267	\$24,028	-\$605
July	\$14,762	\$22,746	-\$8,589
August	\$13,825	\$23,282	-\$18,046
September	\$19,729	\$21,292	-\$19,609
October	\$13,525	\$22,855	-\$28,938
November	\$13,188	\$26,862	-\$42,614
December	\$65,484	\$26,958	<b>-\$4,090</b>

*We ended December in the **Red** **-\$4,090!** {Compare to 2023: \$9,768}.*

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

**Our Expenses are up \$5,000** (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

Compare: Year to date:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Income:	<b>\$292,091</b>	<b>\$284,000</b>
Total Expenses:	<b>\$282,323</b>	<b>\$288,090</b>

***Thank You!!***

**Let our giving reflect our faith!**

## **Finance Remarks** *January 28, 2025*

The different Accounts of the Church. *Balances as of Dec 31, 2024.*

**Operating Fund:** This is the Annual day to day income & expenses Fund. It is the Fund we vote for every year in February. *Balance: -\$4,090*

**Growth & Development Fund:** This Fund we set up only 4 years ago for the establishment of long-term Fund to “use the interest only”. *Balance: \$70,620*

**St Demetrios General Savings:** This “Savings” account receives the Festival Income. This is the Fund we paid down our Mortgage from, we pay our end of the year shortfall, etc. *Balance: \$106,635*

**Memorial Scholarship Fund:** As it states, this is the Ladakakos, Arabatzis, Zafirson, Gikas Scholarship Fund. *Balance: \$30,759*

**Dedicated Account:** This account has monies collected or given to the church for specific – “dedicated” purposes. The amounts given, can only be spent on the purpose that it was given. *Balance: \$110,176*

**Festival – Activities Fund:** The fund is available for application/use on a project and/or mortgage. *Balance: \$42,796*

**Festival – Start Up Cash:** This is the “start up” \$ that we need for the Festival. *Balance: \$30,000*

**Papas Account:** This is not a Fund, it is the monies received from the J. Pappas estate. It is not designated or earmarked for anything specific at this time. *Balance: \$117,542*

**Philanthropic:** This is a confidential Fund, for the benefit of helping for those in need. I.E. emergency need of utility bills, food cards, etc. *Balance: \$3,530*

**Bookstore:** This is the Narthex Bookstore Fund. *Balance: \$3,568*

**GOYA:** This is the Youth Activities Fund, and it includes the Propane Funds raised during the “Propane Challenge” on Palm Sunday. *Balance: \$14,205 (Youth: \$6,307 & Propane \$7,898)*

**Mortgage (liability):** *Balance: \$96,035*

### **Dedicated/Designated/Restricted**

*Here at our church, we do not distinguish between these terms. Legally they can have a slightly different meaning.*

*For our purposes, these monies can only be used in the specific way/purpose that the donors have stated. Such funds are “restricted” from being used in any other way.*

*Legally & ethically, we are “Restricted”. For example: Scholarship Funds can only be used for Scholarships, we cannot pay any other bills with them.*

Of the above funds, only the following are NOT Restricted:

**Operating Fund**

**St Demetrios General Savings**

**Festival – Activities Fund**

**Papas Account**

**Growth & Development Fund** (*ONLY the interest may be used*)

# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>TRIODION begins Monday February 10.</b> <b>Great Lent begins Monday March 3.</b> <i>Sunday of Orthodoxy is March 9.</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA is Sunday April 20.</b>		<b>BAKING FROM FEBRUARY 4:</b> <b>TUESDAYS &amp; THURSDAYS @ 9:00AM</b>					<b>1</b> <i>St. Tryphon the Martyr</i> <i>Forefeast of the Presentation of the Lord</i>
<b>2 Presentation of our Lord and Savior in the Temple</b> <i>Υπαπαντη</i> St. Fotini Lunch	<b>3</b> <i>Afterfeast of the Presentation of the Lord</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>St. Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>St. Theodore the Commander &amp; Great Martyr</i>	
<b>9 Sunday of Publican &amp; Pharisee</b> <i>TRIODION begins</i> <b>General Assembly</b> (Operating Budget & Fire Suppression System)	<b>10</b> <i>St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr</i>	<b>11</b> <i>St. Blaise the Hieromartyr</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Pre-Lent begins Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee - - - This week we <u>do not fast on any day!</u></b>							
				<b>6:00pm Ch Council</b>			
<b>16 Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>	<b>17</b> <i>St. Theodore the Tyro, Great Martyr</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> (fast)	<b>20</b> <b>6:00pm Meeting for the 2025 Greek Fest (July 11,12,13)</b>	<b>21</b> (fast)	<b>22</b> <i>Saturday of Souls</i> <i>Ψυχοσαββατον</i>	
<b>23 Meatfare Sunday</b> <b>APO-KREAS</b> (Last day of Meats) St. Fotini Memorial	<b>24</b> <i>First and Second Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> (fast only from meats) <i>St. Photini the Samaritan</i> <i>Αγ Φωτινη η Σαμαρητις</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> (fast only from meats)		
<b>Last week before Great Lent - - - We stop eating only meats. No other fast on any day!</b>							



From Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be in the  
**“Triodion”**

This is the great three sections of **Pre-lent, Great Lent & Holy Week.**

This is the most “challenging” yet most beneficial time of the year.

We are asked to exert ourselves spiritually & with the flesh as no other time.

We are asked to give the full “Tithe of Time” (40 days of Lent) to The Lord.

We are to confront ourselves, our weaknesses, our passions, if we do, we will experience the joy of the Resurrection.

***We have to Crucify ourselves, our weaknesses and our passions, in order to be raised to the new Life, the new eternal Life. The old man has to die for the new man to live.***

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## Sundays in Preparation (before) for Great Lent

During the three week (4 Sundays) pre-Lenten season, the Church prepares us for changing the direction of our life. She urges us to prepare ourselves through **a) fasting** - diet modification - saying NO to yourself, **b) prayer** - spending time with God, **c) giving** - this means \$ - trusting God, **and d) forgiveness** of others & ourself. Judgment - condemnation of others brings on spiritual death. (Mt 6:2-18)

### **1. February 9: The Publican and the Pharisee** (Luke 18:10-14) Hypocrisy

This Sunday emphasizes humility as a key for repentance (our hypocrisy), since we actually believe we are better than others! The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means a change of the “mind of the soul”. To repent we must not boast, but humble ourselves like the Publican who recognizes what he is. We are called to learn this secret of knowing oneself, of the Publican rather than the self-righteousness of the Pharisee who is “convinced of his righteousness”, and proceeds to condemn his neighbor. There is no fasting for this week, lest we become hypocrites.

### **2. February 16: The Prodigal** (Luke 15:11-32)

This Sunday teaches us about our need to “return” from exile - being away from God. This parable shows us the mercy of the Father who with joy and open arms receives his son. We are encouraged to examine ourselves, to confront our sin and “come home.”

The week that follows is called Meat Week (Kreatini) as **it is the last week we eat meats**. In the villages of Greece this was the traditional week to slaughter the family pig and the leftovers were smoked to be eaten after Pascha. The normal rule of fasting is applied to this week, on Wednesday and Friday.

Saturday of this week is the first Saturday of Souls (February 22) where those who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection and eternal life are remembered. We bring kollyva to the church with a list of baptismal names. We commend to God all those who have departed before us, who are awaiting the Last Judgment.

### **3. February 23: Judgment (Meat-fare) Sunday** (Matt 25:31-46)

This Sunday emphasizes the Last Judgment. Our spiritual life cannot be separated from our actions. God Who is all Fair will “judge” us according to our life. We are reminded of our individual responsibility to love. We stop eating meats on Monday morning, but we can eat eggs, cheese (all dairy) & all sea food/fish. It is the week of Paradise, where Adam & Eve were caretakers and lived in peace with all the animals. *That is how we are to live with every human being around us! **We are our brother’s keeper!***

**March 2** is the Forgiveness (Cheese-Fare) Sunday (Matt 6:14-21), and **March 10** is Clean Monday - Great Lent Begins.

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### **Fasting Notes:**

Publican & Pharisee: Remember that from Feb 9 – Feb 16 there is **NO fast!**

Prodigal: Regular Wed/Fri fast for Feb 16 – Feb 23.

Meatfare (Judgement) Sunday: Feb 23 - LAST day we partake of meats.

Cheesefare Week: Feb 23 – March 2, we partake of dairy, fish, etc. everyday.

Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday: March 2, LAST day of dairy....

Clean Monday – March 3, **Lent** begins.... NO meats, dairy, fish, olive oil & wine (on weekdays).

On weekends we partake of olive oil (oo) & wine.

The Annunciation – March 25, we have olive oil (oo), wine & fish.

## The Presentation of the Lord (the 'Meeting'), February 2<sup>nd</sup>

*The Prologue from Ochrid, p.131*

On the fortieth day after His birth, the most holy Virgin brought her divine Son to the Temple in Jerusalem, to consecrate Him to the Lord and to purify herself according to the Law (Lev. 12:2-7, Exod. 12:2). And though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver would not in any way transgress the Law which He had given through His servant and prophet Moses.

At that time Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, was serving his turn as high priest in the Temple. He stood the Virgin Mary in the place for maidens, not that for married women.

On this occasion, there were two very special people present: the elder Simeon, and Anna the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous elder took his Messiah up in his arms and said: 'Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.'

Simeon also spoke the following words of the Christ Child: 'Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel.' Then Anna, who had from her youth served God in the Temple in fasting and prayer, and who herself recognized the Messiah, praised the Lord and made known to the inhabitants of Jerusalem the coming of the awaited One.

## **THE PHOTIOS THE GREAT, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

St. Photios (Photius) of Constantinople, 815-Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 893. He was the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople from 857 to 867 and again from 877 to 886. He was well educated and from a noble Constantinopolitan family. He is recognized in the Eastern Orthodox Church as **St. Photios the Great!** He is also recognized as the most powerful and influential Church leader of Constantinople, subsequent to **John Chrysostom Bishopric** around the turn of the fifth century. He was also known as the most important intellect of his time. "The leading light of the 9<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance."

He was a central figure in both the conversion of the *Slavs to Christianity* and the Photian Schism.\*

\*Photius and the schism associated with him have been viewed very differently by Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians throughout history. The West has looked upon him as a heretic and schismatic, while the East has seen him as a hero for his resistance to Western encroachment.

**Note:** *Look up St. Photios The Great. There is so much great information about him that we do not have enough space to include here. He is Godly, interesting, dynamic and absolutely a great read. Enjoy!*

## **Saint PHOTINI, "The enlightened one", February 26<sup>th</sup>**

St. PHOTINI is the "woman at the well" who was exiled from her native Samaria, and is known as the Samaritan woman (John 4:5-42). She was baptized by the Apostles, and given the name PHOTINI. With her family, she traveled far to spread Christ's message.

PHOTINI and her family were imprisoned in Rome because she spoke for the cause of Christianity before Nero. After two years in prison, they were put to death. The Orthodox Church commemorates her memory on February 26, and on the Sunday of the Samaritan.

*(The Book of Saints, by Mary P. Hallick, p.130)*

## Notes for February 2025

**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.

### **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.

### **ST. FOTINI MEMORIAL SUNDAY.**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 23rd. We will have a Memorial on that day for the departed souls, followed by a coffee hour that we will sponsor.

### **COMMUNITY RETREAT AT CAMP.**

To keep everyone informed... there will be a Community Retreat at our Camp in Contocook, NH the end of March. Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

More details to be announced. Contact Lisa Tompkins at 207-286-6526.

### **GREEK SCHOOL: PAIDEIA OF MAINE is developing an Online Greek School.**

Classes will be offered for credit by the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. The cost of registration and Tuition is \$200.00 for a 12 week course to be offered between 01/27- 05/02/2025. Please call Dimitra Voulgari at (207) 329-0895 for more information.

**HELLENIC SOCIETY OF MAINE** has events scheduled for February.

- **Thursday, Feb. 6;** 7:00pm, **Film discussion of *Girls In the Sun* by Vasilis Georgiadis (1968).**
- **Sun. Feb. 23,** at 3:00pm, **Discussion of 'Cavafy; His life and Works' with Betsy Sholl and Mary Snell.**

### **GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON PHILOPTOCHOS COOKBOOK**

The Philoptochos Group is sponsoring a new cookbook entitled "Around the Metropolis Table". If you would like to order, the cost is \$40 plus shipping. This book is dedicated to Metropolitan Methodios on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Enthronement in Boston.

Please go to: <https://metropolis-of-boston-philoptochos.square.site>

### **METROPOLIS OF BOSTON: MBC SUMMER CAMP '25**

**REGISTRATION OPENS March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 8:00pm.**

**SPACE IS LIMITED. MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

Dates are as follows:

Session 1: June 23-29;

Session 2: June 30-July 6;

Session 3: July 7-13;

Session 4: July 14-20;

Session 5: July 21-27.

# **GIVING TREE FUNDRAISER FOR IOCC**

(IOCC stands for International Orthodox Christian Charities)

Dimitra Voulgari is the St. Demetrios representative to the IOCC.

A Giving Tree Fundraiser will begin and continue the month of February. Heart shaped ornaments will be on a tree in the Narthex, known as *Gifts of Love*. The ornaments will offer a suggested amount, some lower/some higher. Please select whatever fits your budget.

The IOCC supports many charities and countries throughout the world. Whatever fundraising is done through the local Churches is an expression of *Gifts of Love*.

**Make your check payable to St. Demetrios and memo it IOCC tree.** A locked box will be near the tree, please put your check in there. Whatever is collected, will be sent to the IOCC at the end of February. If there are any questions, please speak with Dimitra.

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## **Project Mexico**

from Tom Carr

Last spring, at our St. Demetrios Community Retreat we were gifted with an inspiring presentation by Fr. Luke Veronis of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Webster, Massachusetts.

Fr Luke spoke of his community's efforts and the needs in volunteering their support of Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage in northern Mexico.

Support of Project Mexico is not only supporting the building of a safe, secure and weather-tight home for some of the most impoverished families in Northern Mexico but also providing financial support of St. Innocent Boys Orphanage and practicing our Orthodox faith. The boys participate in sacraments, worship services, and expressing faith through prayer, hymns, and icons.

With the labor and prayers of many generous volunteers and donors, a 16-acre horse ranch with a beautiful view of the Pacific Ocean, was renovated and transformed into a home for abandoned and abused adolescent boys.

St. Innocent Orphanage officially opened its doors to its first boys by private tutoring, an active program of athletics and extra-curricular activities, and a lasting sense of family and belonging fostered by unconditional love and support from all of the staff and volunteers within our ministry.

The Home Building side of Project Mexico provides homes so that these families can build a brighter future for themselves and their children.

St. Demetrios currently has four members of our group registered, with another three members awaiting their passports before registering.

We have secured the week of August 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> for our Home Building project.

Our community support for this philanthropic project would be greatly appreciated. Here is some information that we would like share with you.

### **OUR NEEDS:**

- \* **Community Support.**
- \* **Registration costs: \$900**
- \* **Flight Costs to San Diego**
- \* **Rental of a Van**
- \* **Tents & Supplies**

**This totals out to \$1,500 cost per person. We presently have four people committed to this, and three additional applicants, seven in all.**

This is a much needed, and worthwhile project. It is a project that can grow and perhaps even be extended to other areas. We would like to offer this Philanthropic effort as representatives of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Saco, Maine. Help us to help others.

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



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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

God's great goodness is endless like the ocean.  
So should human patience be endless, like the ocean.

*Gerondissa Makrina*

**Saint Demetrios**

Greek Orthodox Church

186 Bradley Street

Saco, ME 04072

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**