# ST. DEMETRIOS

Volume XXXVI, No 04

Saco, Maine

APRIL 2025

# Pascha 2025

# the most wonderful time of the year!

...Now since you are celebrating the Holy Pascha, you should know, brethren, what the Pascha is.

Pascha means the *crossing-over* (pass or cross-over), and so the Festival is called by this name. For it was on this day that the Children of Israel *crossed over* out of Egypt, and the Son of God *crossed over* from this world to His Father.

What gain is it to celebrate unless you imitate Him, Whom you worship; that is, unless you *cross over* from Egypt, that is, from the darkness of evildoing to the light of virtue, from the love of this world to the love of your heavenly home?

St. Ambrose

Informational & General Assemblies notice included

#### An EXPLANATION of the beginning of HOLY WEEK

Fr. Alexander Schmemann

#### LAZARUS SATURDAY - The Beginning of the Cross

"Having fulfilled Forty Days... we enter the Holy Week of Thy Passion." With these words sung at Vespers of Friday, Lent comes to its end and we enter Christ's suffering, death and Resurrection – Holy Week.

It begins on the Saturday of Lazarus. The double feast of Lazarus' resurrection and the Entrance of the Lord to Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) is described as the "beginning of the Cross". The common Troparion-Hymn of these days explicitly affirms that by raising Lazarus from the dead Christ confirmed the truth of the resurrection. It is highly significant that we are led into the darkness of the Cross by light and joy.

All those familiar with Orthodox worship know the peculiar, almost paradoxical character of Lazarus Saturday services. It is a Sunday, i.e., a Resurrection, service - on a Saturday, a day devoted to the liturgical commemoration of the dead. And the joy which permeates these services stresses one central theme: the forthcoming victory of Christ over Hades. Hades is the Biblical term for Death, for that unescapable darkness and destruction that swallows all life and poisons with its shadow the whole world. But now -- with Lazarus' resurrection -- "death begins to tremble." For there the decisive duel between Life and Death begins and it gives us the key to the entire liturgical mystery of Pascha. In the early church Lazarus Saturday was called "announcement of Pascha", it announces and anticipates, the wonderful light and peace of the next Saturday - the Great and Holy Saturday, the day of the Lifegiving Tomb.

#### Lazarus, the Friend of Jesus

The world is but lamentation and sorrow, tears and death. How is this possible? How did this happen? These are the questions implied in John's slow and detailed narrative of Jesus' coming to the grave of His friend. And once there, "Jesus wept." (John 11:35) Why does He weep,.... because He contemplates the triumph of death and destruction in the world created by God.

Love, the Power of Life

"It stinks." say the Judeans trying to prevent Jesus from approaching the corpse, and this awful warning applies to the whole world, to all life. God is Life and the Giver of Life. He called man into the Divine reality of Life and behold "it stinks"... The world was created to reflect and proclaim the glory of God and "it stinks." At the grave of Lazarus God encounters Death, the reality of anti-life, of destruction and despair. He meets His Enemy, who has taken away from Him His World and become its prince.

We follow Jesus.... the shortest verse of the Gospel: "and Jesus wept"... He wept, i.e., loved His friend Lazarus. God is Love and Love is life, Love creates Life... It is Love that weeps at the grave and it is Love that restores life. This is the meaning of the Divine tears of Jesus. "Lazarus, come forth!..."

This is why Lazarus Saturday is the beginning of both: the Cross, as the Supreme sacrifice of love, the Resurrection, as the ultimate triumph of love.

# PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

EAT IN or TO GO

Sunday, April 13th following the Divine Liturgy

# Propane (& Electricity) Challenge

Baked Haddock Dinner \$25

Rice pilaf, Vegetables, Dessert

or

Pasta with Sauce \$15 (adults)

Children pasta lunch .... Eat free.

Please, make checks payable to:

St. Demetrios Church - GOYA.

100% of the proceeds/donations are used for our Heating/Cooling.

We truly thank the Lacones for Sponsoring the meal!!!

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

### 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

The Annunciation Mar. 15th, 2025

## **Informational Assembly**

Sunday April 27th is our Community's Informational Assembly to discuss:

- 1. Paying down our Mortgage by \$40,000. \*
- 2. Contributing from the Growth & Development Fund \$2,300 to Project Mexico. \*\*
- 3. Update on AC for the church-temple. \*\*\*

# General Assembly

On <u>Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup></u> we will have our **General Assembly to vote** on the above. Right after the Div. Liturgy.

The Agenda:

**Opening Prayer** 

- 1. Election of Chairman of Assembly.
- 2. Vote on paying down our Mortgage by \$40,000.
- 3. Approving giving \$2,300 from the G & D Fund to 2025 project Mexico. Closing Prayer

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

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

(signature on file)

(signature on file)

+Fr Basil Arabatzis Presbyter Adriana Popa Financial Secretary

## **Informational/General Assemblies**

#### Notes:

\*Paying down our Mortgage by \$40,000. Our mortgage balance is \$96,035. This is the third mortgage in our Saco location & it was taken for the metal roof of the church & to buy additional property as a buffer. The Church Council is recommending this amount, with the hope of another successful Festival to possibly pay it off completely!

Currently our interest rate is 7.81%.

\*\*Contributing from the Growth & Development Fund \$2,300 to Project Mexico. According to the very simple rules of the Fund, a small committee was formed to make a recommendation to the Church Council which accepts or rejects this. The Council accepted it & thus is forwarding it to the General Assembly for final approval.

The amount recommended is not more than 90% of the interest of the previous year.

\*\*\*Update on AC for the church-temple. We will only discuss the latest information (update) for the possibility of installing AC in our church-temple, the Connector & the bride-cry room.

# FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHTS SPONSORSHIP ADS 2025

FESTIVAL ... FESTIVAL ... FESTIVAL Friday, Saturday, Sunday, July 11, 12, 13th, 2025

Mark your calendars!!

The Festival is back, and planning, organizing and preparing...

<u>Very important</u> ... We need everyone's help, cannot do this without everyone's help, see Stavros Nashi.... place your name on the <u>Volunteer</u> <u>list</u>. We need YOU!

Our **SPONSORSHIP ADS** will be available again this year...more info in the next newsletter. To be continued ...

#### PASCHAL NEEDS 2025 LENTEN & HOLY WEEK NEEDS

4 weeks @ \$5	0/week			
\$150				
\$55				
\$70				
\$21 per set				
\$7 each				
\$7 each	Taken			
\$21/per set				
\$200	Taken			
Pussy willows (obtained locally in fields) for Palm Sunday Slavic tradition				
\$75				
\$50				
\$65 (one avail	able)			
\$55	Taken			
\$75				
\$30 each				
\$1,500				
\$350				
\$375	Taken			
	\$55 \$70 \$21 per set \$7 each \$7 each \$21/per set \$200 Slavic tradition \$75 \$50 \$65 (one avail \$55 \$75 \$30 each \$1,500 \$350			

#### Olive oil. Please do not bring Capatriti oil. It does not burn well.

Communion wine. Donations only please. The Church will purchase wine.

See Stephanie... please give your checks to Stephanie, in the office where a list will be kept. Make your check payable to St Demetrios, ear-marked: Donation, Holy Week. Thank you for your support – Glory to God in and for all things!

## Flower Girls for Holy Friday

Flower Girls represent the Myrrh Bearing Women at the tomb for the Holy Friday evening service. Girls must be fully dressed in white (dress, sweater, tights, shoes & gloves). The church has numerous dresses to loan out.

Girls (ages 5 and up) who are interested in being Flower Girls **please sign up with Kristin Sullivan.** 

FMI: text/call Kristin@ 603-374-3306 or ... EMAIL: <a href="mailto:kristin.grace.sullivan@gmail.com">kristin.grace.sullivan@gmail.com</a>

April 2025								
Sun	Mon	Tue		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 <u>Baking</u>	(fast) 2	(fast)	3 <u>Baking</u>	(fast) 4 (f	5 (fast)	
			w/ pot luck			6:00pm Entire <b>Akathist</b> - Ακαθιστος Υμνος!		
6 Sun of St Mary of Egypt (fast) St. Fotini meeting	7 (fast	Baking	(fast) 9 5:30pm Presw/pot luck	(fast) sanctified Lit. supper	Baking 6:00pm Ch Council	(fast) <b>11</b> (f.	sat of Lazaros, we begin Holy Week Schedule  Preparing the Palm Crosses	
13 Palm Sunday Entrance (fast) of The Christ into Jerusalem <u>Dinner</u> Propane Challenge	14 (fast	5	(fast) 16	(fast)	_		ast) 19 (fast	
Community PICTURE			•		– Pascha, April 20			
20 Sun of The <u>Passover-</u> <u>Pascha</u> of the Lord	21	22	23	(NO fast)	24	<b>25</b> (NO fa	ast) <b>26</b>	
from death unto Life!	Χρισ	τος Ανεστη	. – Αληθ	θως Ανεσι	τη! Christ	is Risen – Tru	ly He is Risen!	
27 Sun of St Thomas & Continuing - PASCHA INFORMATIONAL Assy	28	29	30	(o oil/wine)				
GREEK Independence PARAI	DE – <u>Liturgy ends early</u>	<u> </u>						

#### **HOLY WEEK** Schedule of Services 2025

- Saturday of LAZAROS (Apr 12) Div. Liturgy 9:00am-10:00am
- PALM Sunday (Apr 13) 9:00am Orthros, D. Liturgy by 10:00am Bridegroom Orthros 6:00-7:15pm
- Holy MONDAY (Apr 14) Bridegroom Orthros 6:00-7:15pm (@ <u>Biddeford-Serbian/old church ??</u>)
- Holy TUESDAY (Apr 15) Presanctified Liturgy 8:30-9:45am Bridegroom Orthros 6:00-7:15pm (@ Cemetery Chapel ??)
- Holy WEDNESDAY (Apr 16) Presanctified Liturgy 8:30-9:45am Holy Oil 5:30-6:45pm
- Holy THURSDAY (Apr 17)
  - Vesp. Liturgy (Mystical Supper) 7:00-8:15am
  - Orthros of the CRUCIFIXION 6:00-8:30pm
- Holy FRIDAY (Apr 18) Great Hours 9:00-10:15am
  - Vespers of the ENTOMBMENT 3:00-4:00pm
  - Orthros of the LAMENTATION 6:00-8:00pm
- Holy SABBATH (Apr 19) Vesperal Liturgy (Sepulcher) 9:30-11:15am
   Orthros/Liturgy THE RESURRECTION 11:30pm-1:45am
  Blessing of the Paschal Baskets (the meats & cheeses)
- Holy PASCHA (Apr 20) Vespers of Agapi 11:00-11:45am

Come Receive The Light, from The Light that Never Sets!

#### Ακολουθιαι ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ

- Σαββατον του Λαζαρου (12 Απρ) Θεια Λειτουργια 9:00–10:00πμ
- Κυριακη των ΒΑΙΩΝ (13 Απρ) Ορθρος/Θ. Λειτουργια 9:00–11:30πμ Ορθρος Νυμφιου 6:00–7:15μμ
- Μεγαλη ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ (14 Απρ) Ορθρος Νυμφιου 6:00–7:15μμ (Biddeford-στην Σερβικη/παλια εκκλησια)
- Μεγαλη ΤΡΙΤΗ (15 Απρ) Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια 8:30–9:45πμ  $\text{ Ορθρος Νυμφιου 6:00-7:15μμ} \qquad (\text{Στο Κοιμητηριο})$
- Μεγαλη ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ (16 Απρ) Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια 8:30–9:45πμ Ευχελαιον 5:30–6:45μμ
- Μεγαλη ΠΕΜΠΤΗ (17 Απρ) Εσπ. Λειτουργια 7:00–8:15πμ Ορθρος <ΣΤΑΥΡΩΣΙΣ> 6:00–8:30μμ
- Μεγαλη ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ (18 Απρ) Μεγαλες Ωρες 9:00–10:15πμ
  - Εσπερινος <ΑΠΟΚΑΘΗΛΩΣΙΣ> 3:00–4:00μμ
  - Ορθρος <ΕΠΕΤΑΦΙΟΣ ΘΡΗΝΟΣ> 6:00–8:00μμ
- Μεγα ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ (19 Απρ) Εσπ. Λειτουργια 9:30–11:15πμ <Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ> Ορθρος/Θ. Λειτουργια 11:30–1:45πμ
- Κυριακή του ΠΑΣΧΑ (20 Απρ) Εσπ. ΑΓΑΠΗΣ 11:00–11:45μμ

Δευτε Λαβετε Φως

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

If anyone is graduating high school and <u>continuing their education</u>, please see Tom Carr or Stephanie for a St. Demetrios application. And for <u>a St. Fotini application</u>, see Cindy Carr. Thank you.

#### ST. DEMETRIOS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2025

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE J. LADAKAKOS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CLEANTHIS AND DIMITRA ARABATZIS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PETER J. ZAFIRSON

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CONSTANDINA GIKAS

- ✓ for high school students of St Demetrios
- ✓ at least one parent must be a member in good standing at St. Demetrios
- ✓ application deadline: Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ scholarship committee will review the applicants for recommendations for approval to the Church council at the April Council meeting
- ✓ presentation of awards: Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (recipients must be present)

#### ST. FOTINI SCHOLARSHIP 2025

- ✓ for members of St. Fotini (for 12 months) who have a child graduating from high school
- ✓ consideration given to individuals who have been involved with our church
- ✓ application deadline: Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ presentation of scholarship: Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (recipients must be present)

#### HELLENIC SOCIETY PAIDEIA OF MAINE offering \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

HS Senior/College Student of Greek descent or Phil-Hellene actively involved in our Maine Greek communities.

Preference to HS Seniors grads going to college, and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> year College students. Application must be received by **April 30, 2025.** 

First time applicants only.

#### Requirements include:

- ✓ Cover Letter sharing info such as church community affiliation/involvement, special interests, awards, recognitions
- ✓ your school needs to mail to the Scholarship Committee a transcript with a GPA of 85% or higher
- √ two recommendations letters, and a 250-300 word essay: "How has the Hellenic culture been influential in your educational aspirations"
- √ a copy of the College acceptance letter

Mail to: Hellenic Society of Paideia of Maine, Education Committee, c/o John Rozos, P O Box 112, Poland Spring, ME 04274.

## **Notes** for April 2025

#### 29th Annual Greek Independence Parade

Sunday April 27 (St Thomas Sunday)

Orthros 8:45 am, Liturgy at 9:30am so we will be completely done just before 11am.

Boston, MA - Boylston Street to Charles Street. **Parade Kick-offs at 1:00pm**; Greek Music and Dancing, Food at the Boston Common immediately after the parade. Dinner Gala 6:00pm.

Fasting Notes:

<u>During Lent</u> – NO meats, dairy, fish, olive oil & wine (on weekdays). On weekends we partake of olive oil (oo) & wine.

Palm Sunday - We have olive oil (oo), wine & fish.

We BREAK the Fast, after the Resurrection early on the First Day of the Week - Sunday of Pascha.

Email/call to Fr Basil!

Please do NOT email Fr Basil. I have had a lot of problems with it!

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.

PLEASE: If your children go to camp ... Space is limited. Please check to see available dates. METROPOLIS OF BOSTON: MBC SUMMER CAMP '25

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

HELLENIC SOCIETY OF MAINE has events scheduled for April & May.

- Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm, Biblia Mazi: book discussion of Greece: A Travelers Literary Companion, short story anthology edited by Artemis Leontis.
- Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm, Film discussion of Windfall in Athens, by Michael Cacoyannis (1956). NOTE THE NEW TIME.

On behalf of ST FOTINI, we would like to thank the members of our community for their generous contributions during our <u>January Personal Care Products</u> drive. We delivered the items to Seeds of Hope in Biddeford; they expressed their appreciation for the many products donated, and thankful that these items will definitely be put to good use. This *Personal Care Products Drive* will continue to be an annual January event. Thanks for making this happen!

With appreciation, Carol Xanthopoulos & Anna Zafirson.

On behalf of IOCC, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all who participated in the Giving Tree for IOCC fundraisers in Greek Orthodox churches from Lewiston, Portland and Saco. The parishioners from all churches ioined forces and raised \$6,000.00.

In the spirit of Christ's love, IOCC offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

Thank you all for a successful fundraiser and for your support.

## Monthly Financial Report. 03/20/2025

(Operating Budget 2025)

Mortgage Balance: \$96,035

#### STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE as of February 28, 2025

Total Stewards: 94

Total Stewardship Received: \$40,939

Month	Income (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Operating account (\$)
January	\$26,719	\$21,797	\$4,923
February	\$26,838	\$22,981	\$8,780

We ended February in the **Black \$8,780!** {Compare to 2024: <u>\$10,415</u>}.

Our Income is <u>down</u> by <u>\$10.000</u> (compared to LAST YEAR).

Our Expenses are <u>down</u> by <u>\$9.000</u> (compared to LAST YEAR).

Compare: Year to date:

	2024	2025
Total Income:	<del>\$63,</del> 538	\$53,557
Total Expenses:	\$53,123	\$44,777

#### Thank You!!

Let our giving reflect our faith!

#### PROJECT MEXICO

The building of a safe, secure and weather-tight "home" (approximately a 12x20 room) for some of the most impoverished families in the BAJA Region of Northern Mexico. No electricity, plumbing, or heat.

August 17th-23th. Dimitra Voulgari, Josiah Smalley, Louis Cotsis, Joshua Brewer, Riley Saunders & Tom Carr.

The cost per person is approx. \$1,500 (+), includes flights, transportation, food & board, and the actual building of the "one room home".

We already have \$6,200\*\* in donations towards the \$10,000 needed.

<u>Help us help others.</u> Contributions to this effort can be made directly at church, earmarking *Project Mexico*.

Thank you!! Tom Carr

\*\* The \$6,200 is from Tom Carr, Joshua Brewers, Riley Saunders, Fr. Basil & Presvytera, Dimitra Voulgari, Louis Cotsis, Anne & John Maragus, Stephanie Koutroulis, St. Fotini, Demoulas Foundation, GOYA, Youth Activities.

**Also** pending General Assembly approval, \$2,300 to be taken from the interest earned of the Growth and Development Fund.

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

#### Melissa J. Rioux

Assoc. Broker









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# ASSOCIATION OF LACONES FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1934

Greek Fraternal Society

Serving Southern Maine and Southern New Hampshire

OUR 91th YEAR

St. Fotini Ladies Society

# **Saint Demetrios**

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

Sunday Services:

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

9:00 AM Orthros

Website: stdemetriosofmaine.com

Divine Liturgy by 10:00 AM

Church: (207) 284-5651

Winter hours start September 29.

FAX: (207) 283-4641

Fr. Basil Arabatzis, Presbyter

Home: (207) 284-6170

"Never wish for anything but the Will of God and accept with love any trials that may come your way."

(Eldress Gavrilia)

#### Saint Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church 186 Bradley Street Saco, ME 04072

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