ST. DEMETRIOS

Volume XXXVII, No 10 Saco, Maine NOVEMBER 2026

Can you believe it?

We are coming quickly to the last part of 2026!

1. Blessed **Thanksgiving!**

2. The Nativity **40 day joyous fast,….**

leading to The **Nativity of our Lord!** (*The 12 days of Christmas.*)

And something **annual** and **important….**

3. *Our **Stewardship!….***

Please: Complete your 2026 Stewardship *& your end of the year giving-OFFERING*.
Please: Be Generous.
Please: Remember that STEWARDSHIP COVERS **70% OF OUR OPERATING COSTS.**
Please: Look quickly through all the notes included in this Newsletter.

4. Church Council

ST. DEMETRIOS
Greek Orthodox Church

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON
Archdiocese of America
186 Bradley Street
Saco, ME 04072
(207) 284-5651 Ph (207) 282-9505 Fax

Fr. Basil Arabatzis
Presiding Presbyter

St Demetrios
October 26, 2026

General Assembly

On Sunday December 6th we will have our General Assembly for the Church Council members (2027-2028). (In the event that on Nov 15th, *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

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
10/26/2026
St Demetrios

Church Council Elections

(Nominating form.)

Church Council Elections have been scheduled for Sunday December 6th.

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, so we receive it by Sunday November 15, 12:00pm (noon).

Use only this form for submitting your name for the candidacy of the church council.

I, _____ (print your name in full), a member in good standing of the church of St. Demetrios & our Archdiocese, 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 participate in the seminar/class led by the church presbyter (priest) on Thursday, November 19, @ 6:00pm, which 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:_____

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

The Faith: Baptized, participates in the services, lives according to the Gospel. (If someone has not participated in the services for months or years, if someone is "living" with another person, etc.,…. even if contributing to the Stewardship Program… they **are NOT in good** standing.)

THE ENTRACE OF THE THEOTOKOS (NOV. 21)

"Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of Cod, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O divine Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!"

Apolitikion of the Feast

Soon after the beginning of the Nativity Fast (Nov 15-Advent), we celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Here we encounter the holiness of Mary — a small child separated from the world, brought to live in the Temple — a life set apart, consecrated, and in a state of intimacy with God — something that *all of us are called to be*. We also see in this Feast a comparison between the Temple of stone and Mary, the Living Temple — the Temple of the Savior — for she will bear God the Word — the God-Man — in her womb, thus showing herself to be a holier Temple than that at Jerusalem. She is **the Living Temple** — *the instrument of* ***the Incarnation*** — which sanctifies the Temple built of stone.

The parents of the Ever-Virgin, Joachim and Anna, where praying for the resolution of their barrenness, and they *gave a vow that if a child was born, it would be dedicated to the service of God*. Thus, when she was three years old, her holy parents, gathered relatives and acquaintances, clothing the Most-Pure Mary in bright garments, singing sacred hymns and carrying lit candles in their hands, they led her to the Jerusalem Temple. There, she was met by the Archpriest (Zacharias) with a multitude of priests. Leading up into the Temple were fifteen high steps, and the child Mary, it seems, was not able on her own to ascend these steps. But, as soon as she was put on the first step, being strengthened by the power of God, she quickly climbed the remaining steps to the top. Then, at an inspiration from Above, the Archpriest led her into the Holy of Holies into which he entered only once a year on behalf of the people, after first making sacrifices for them and for himself. All who were present were astonished at this extraordinary event.

In the Temple, according to the witness of the Gospel (Luke 2:37), as well as that of the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many rooms for those dedicated to the service of God.

A deep mystery covers the earthly life of the Most-Holy Theotokos from her childhood to her repose. Her life in the Jerusalem Temple was concealed. "If you were to ask me," said the Blessed Jerome, "how the Most-Holy Virgin passed the time of her youth, I would answer that this is known only to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel detailed to protect her."

In Church Tradition, however, is preserved information that during her sojourn in the Jerusalem Temple, the Most-Pure Virgin was educated by reading Holy Scriptures, occupied with handiworks, perpetually in prayer and growing up with love towards God.

The Feast in the first centuries AD is found in the tradition of Palestinian Christians, which says that when the St (Queen) Helena came to Palestine, she erected a church in honor of the Entrance into the Temple of the Most-Holy Theotokos!

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today
to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the Abode of Heaven!

Kontakion of the Feast

From: **Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk,** Waymart, PA

Think like a **Good Steward** (2026)

November is the month of **THANKSGIVING** & the beginning of the 40 day Nativity Fast. Starting Dec 1, we serve Liturgy every day, *a wonderful time, a time of great joy.*

As we slowly *begin* to close 2026 and we are slowly *beginning* to think of 2027! WE now address the Financial Stewardship of our Community.

Our Stewardship is so important and it is a matter of Thanksgiving.

"Stewardship is a theory that managers, left on their own, will act as responsible stewards of the assets and resources they control." (Wikipedia) Yes!

Even in the secular world, ***Stewardship means to be responsible how we use the resources in our control….***

In the Gospel of Matthew the "WISE SERVANT" (Mt 24:46) is the **responsible person who pays attention to what has been given and the expectation of how it will be used!**

In November we will talk about Stewardship and Thanksgiving, we will reflect and challenge all of us to truly become servants of God and ***good stewards of all we received from Him.***

Remember **this is the time of the year** that we receive the most support for all **the work of the Church – St Demetrios.**

Please carefully and with deep conviction become part of those who truly support and want to even increase our work in southern Maine.

We depend on those of faith to step forth both with their "treasure" and with their actual work to continue and increase their offerings!

ST. FOTINI LADIES SOCIETY

2026 GREEK BAZAAR

Bring Home a Taste of Greece!

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10 AM – 3 PM

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- Crafts & Gifts
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FROZEN FOOD PREORDER
Order Online November 11 – 18
Preorder and prepay online, then pick up your order at the Bazaar on November 21.



Pastries will be available for in-person purchase the day of the Bazaar.



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stdemetriosofmaine.com/bazaar

2026 GREEK Bazaar

St. Fotini Ladies Society
Annual Community Christmas Card Fundraiser
To Benefit St. Demetrios Church Janitorial Fund

Deadline November 22nd

PLEASE ENCLOSE PAYMENT OF $25.00 WITH THIS NAME REQUEST FORM. Only one Name Request per form. Cash or checks only.
Make checks payable to "St. Fotini".

Please either drop off check/cash and this entire name request form at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

OR send a check and this entire name request form to:

St. Fotini Ladies Society
c/o Bonny Hadiaris
186 Bradley Street
Saco, ME 04072

Please print clearly, on the line below, the name as you want it to appear on the card. One line, maximum 55 letters.

_____

To ensure delivery before Christmas,* your form & payment must be received no later than November 22nd.** ***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 of this fundraiser for the Janitorial Fund!

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 5th Sunday of Luke	2	3	4 6:00pm **Bible Study/The Faith**	5	6	7 GREEK SCHOOL PAIDEIA DINNER/DANCE
8 7th Sunday of Luke Ch School	9	10	11 **VETERAN'S** Day 6:00pm **Bible Study/The Faith**	12	13 oo/wine	14
15 8th Sunday of Luke **Church Council** name submission **deadline** ***Nativity Fast begins***	16	17	18 6:00pm **Bible Study/The Faith**	19 6:00pm Ch. Council	20	21 8:30am **Liturgy** – Entrance of Theotokos Τα Εισοδια της Θεοτοκου **Bazaar**
22 9th Sunday of Luke Ch School	23	24	25 oo/wine 8:30am **Liturgy** St Catherine, Αγ Αικατερινη	26 Blessed Thanksgiving	27	28
29 13th Sunday of Luke	30	***Daily Liturgies begin Monday Nov 30.***				

Nativity Fast

Nativity Fast

Nativity Fast

As we come to the end of the year….

CONSIDER GIVING TO:

(This is in addition to Stewardship)

1. **Youth work:** Every year between our Youth activities & Camp **we spend $5,000-10,000!**
2. **Growth & Development Fund:** We started in 2025 **using the interest** from the Fund. Its balance is **$163,000 and growing.**

3. Ask if you have a **special targeted** *GIVING IN MIND!*

(I.E. – **AGAIN** THIS YEAR, we have a **family that is giving $9,900** *towards the Snow PLOWING!!)* What a huge blessing!

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

UPDATE on the **GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT** FUND.

Our initial goal was for this Fund to have a balance of half our annual Operating Budget. Our Operating expenses are just over $325,000,… we have reached it! *(For comparison last year our balance was $136,000.)*

By the grace of our Good God we now have **$163,000**!

Maybe we should even consider a higher amount!!

This is both a **backup emergency fund/savings**, but also…to **use the interest** for **our** Growth & Development…. towards targeted events/projects for out Spiritual & Physical Growth & (St Demetrios) Community Development!

The interest that can be used this year is about $3,500.

*2025 was the first year we used some of the interest for "Project Mexico".

*We are considering to use some of the interest for next year's Project Mexico….

*We are looking for two people outside the Church Council to help make a proposal as to how and if we should use the interest….

*Please speak to Fr Basil or Tom Carr – soon.

2026 Stewardship & our Finances

AND ***The end of the year financial status.***

*Please keep in mind: our **monthly Stewardship** offering supports **MOST** of our operating costs – **70%!**

*For our **day to day Operating expenses**, we need (in round numbers) **$27,000 a month**!

*THANK YOU! Our giving has been *very good*. So many of us try hard and truly it makes **the** difference.

(*IF you **have not made a pledge***, pick up an envelope today.)

(*IF you **have not given your offering this month***, please do it soon.)

Now we can get down to ***"brass tacks".***

Every year we estimate the **TOTAL actual amount ($) we need in November & December to balance the Budget.**

(We ended last year **(2025) $4,000** in the Black! ***Everyone's giving was incredible.***)

Overall, so far this year: What we estimate we **need TOTAL INCOME** for *November & December* 2026, to balance the Budget: **$95,000.**

SO FAR THIS YEAR:

Our Income has been great! **Up** by about **$30,000**!

Our Expenses are also "great"! **Up** by about **$22,000**!

1. **Complete** your 2026 **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**
2. If new to the Community, **make your** 2026 **FINANCIAL Stewardship** at this time.

Notes (Nov. 2026)

Monastery Trip

Friday-Sunday November 13-15. We are traveling (pilgrimage) to the Monastery of Holy Protection in White Haven. Many of us have been there numerous times.

Please connect with Joel (207-242-5596) with questions, etc.

.....

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 & Andithoron, if we are NOT 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.

Because so many of us have **different living situations, health issues, "complicated" home & work conditions….**

It is **very important to check in with your confessor as to how you should be actually *fasting, praying, reading, having confession, attending services, etc.***

.....

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; **NAMA** 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.

.....

LL (Reminder - our Library is a **LENDING LIBRARY)**

Our **Library** is **lending books**. - ***OPEN*** *after Liturgy in the Meeting Room.*

Come and browse **during coffee hour**!

.....

Let it Snow!!

Remember, in case of **INCLEMENT weather always call first for any & all activities/services!!**

.....

Email/call to Fr Basil!

Please **do NOT email** Fr Basil.

Call the office or text him.

For appointments always connect with the office.

Always confirm your appointment the day before.

.....

Bible Study

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

Please *check calendar*.

The Gospel according to **John**.

Monthly *Financial Report.* 10/15/2026

(Operating Budget **2026**)

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL UPDATE *as of* ***September 30, 2026***

Total Stewards: 178
Total Stewardship Received: $153,400

Month	Income ($)	Expenses ($)	Operating account ($)
January	$23,811	$30,259	-$6,448
February	$30,918	$24,746	-$275
March	$31,936	$28,847	$2,814
April	$32,063	$27,989	$4,074
May	$26,523	$35,770	-$2,360
June	$10,100	$17,284	-$19,643
July	$26,862	$13,701	-$6,482
August	$19,403	$11,570	-$17,216
September	$16,650	$40,387	-$22,387

We ended September in the **Red $22,387!** *{Compare to 2025*: - $30,128*}.*

Our Income is *up* by $30,000 (compared to *LAST YEAR*).
Our Expenses are *up* by $22,000 (compared to *LAST YEAR*).

Compare: *Year to date*:

	2025	*2026*
Total Income:	**$188,458**	**$218,267**
Total Expenses:	**$218,586**	**$240,654**

Please Remember,

Our **Monthly Stewardship Offering** *makes the difference* in our **Operating Income & Expenses!**

70% of our Income is **STEWARDSHIP!**

Thank You!!

Blessed Thanksgiving Everyone

In the Bible, Thanksgiving means devotion, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving is to glorify God as an act of worship, giving thanks for all things as part of God's providence. All about history.org gives a beautiful definition of Thanksgiving as primarily about relationships: Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God ...

There is also the more popular version, where turkey dinners abound and football games are a fun afternoon. Being together is certainly a Blessing as many families choose and look forward to this day to visit loved ones and enjoy!

***Thank you <u>Sponsors</u>** 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 *started October 4.*
Summer hours:
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Fr. Basil Arabatzis, Presbyter

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Website: stdemetriosofmaine.com
Church: (207) 284-5651
FAX: (207) 283-4651
Home: (207) 284-6170

The acquisition of holiness is not the exclusive business of monks, as certain people think. People with families are also called to holiness, as are those in all kinds of professions, who live in the world, since ***the commandment about perfection and holiness is given not only to monks, but to all people.***

(Hieromartyr Onuphry Gagaluk)
Three-Hundred Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church

Saint Demetrios
Greek Orthodox Church
186 Bradley Street
Saco, ME 04072

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED