

How Saint Demetrios Church Guides Me through My Daily Life

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My faith has been such a part of my life that I can't really differentiate between the two: Church and life. In my mind, Church and life is the same thing. I thought that a person who lives goes to Church and I was quite surprised when I found out that my kindergarten classmates didn't know about Jesus or God. But now I realize that others don't have the same understanding of their faith as I do of mine because they don't belong to Saint Demetrios. They don't have the same feeling of family and comfort that I do when I walk through the halls and know every scratch and indent and every shade of paint. They don't have the same feeling of comfort knowing that their most extended family meet every Sunday in the same pews of the same Church and has been for years and years. They don't, but I do.

I have grown up living five minutes away from Saint Demetrios and almost every time I get in a car, I end up passing my Church. So, at those few moments when Saint Demetrios is in sight, I make sure to do my cross and Jesus and God are in my thoughts. I've been doing this for 17 years and counting. After those moments I keep in my mind the feeling of love and spirituality I've only even found at Saint Demetrios. It's a feeling of security and homeliness. I am guided by these feelings to shape my personality into an optimistic and content Christian. This personality spreads into everything I do whether it be Church-related or not, being with friends, family, at work or at school. Saint Demetrios and my Orthodox faith guide me to be a caring and considerate young man.

It was instilled in me at a young age to be kind and courteous to people and the members of my Church reciprocated those manners. It was the adults and community of Saint Demetrios that made me so comfortable speaking in front of people and made me as outgoing as I am. Without the adults treating me like a member of their families, I wouldn't feel at ease around yiayas or papous and I probably wouldn't be as friendly. I'm thankful to the community for allowing me to grow up in its eyes without concern of the opinions of what people are doing or thinking about me. I am thankful that we are such a close community and I feel secure in it.

Saint Demetrios brings together the people who care about me the most and the peers who will stay my friends for life. The bonds I've made and friendships I will cherish were impossible to achieve without the structure and community of this Church. I am fortunate to have Saint Demetrios as part of my life because it guides me with a feeling of comfort and protections throughout my daily life.