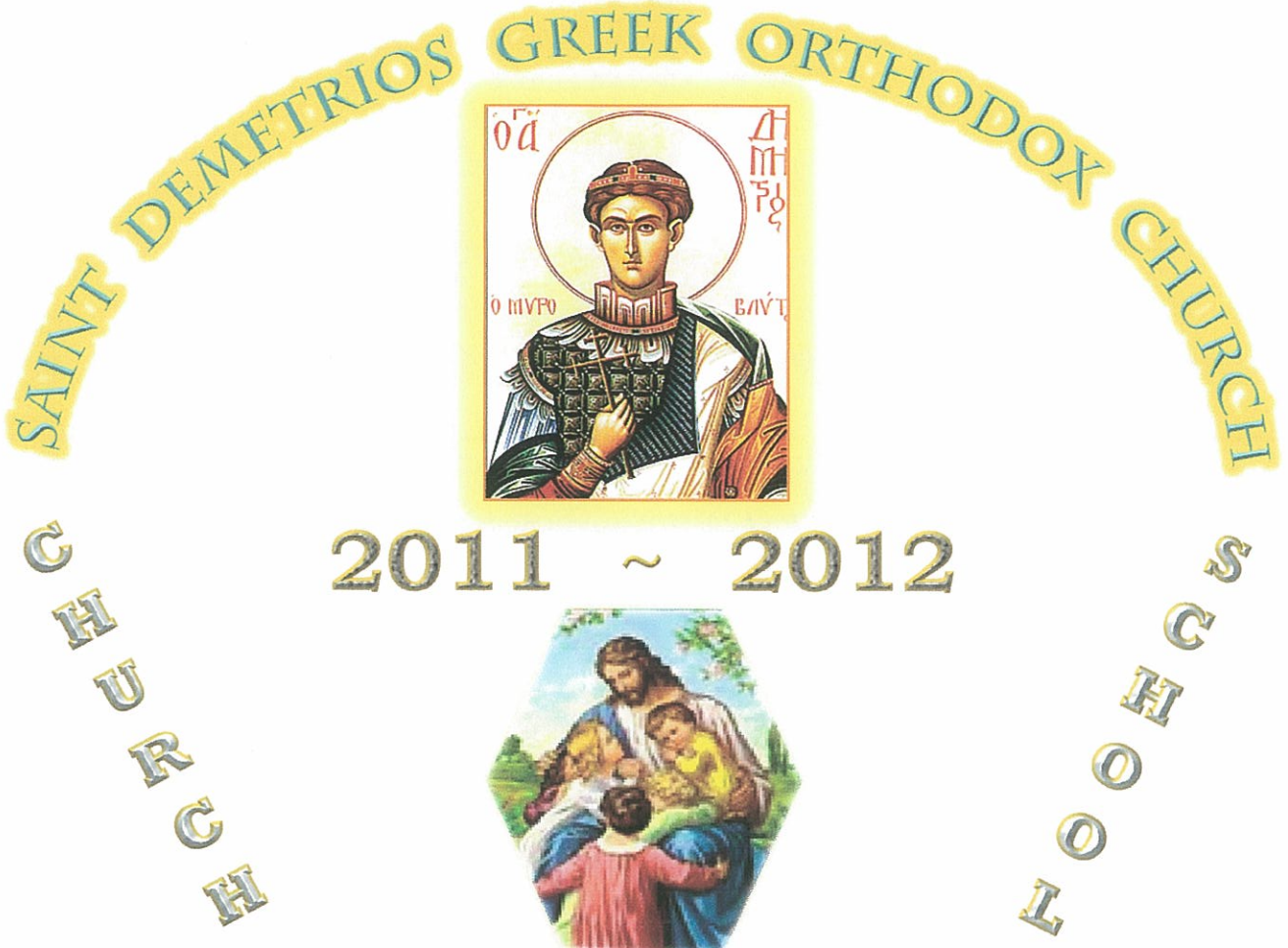


BALTIMORE

MARYLAND



METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY



2011 ~ 2012

HANDBOOK

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Church School mission is motivated by Holy Scripture:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them saying,  
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and  
make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have  
commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Amen.*

*Matthew 28:18-20*



~ OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS ~

“May you be filled with the knowledge of His will  
in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;  
that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him,  
being fruitful in every good work and  
increasing in the knowledge of God;  
strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power,  
for all patience and longsuffering with joy;  
giving thanks to the Father  
who has qualified us to be partakers of the  
inheritance of the Saints in the light.”

September 2011

Dear Parishioners of Saint Demetrios:

The new Ecclesiastical year has begun and our beloved parish begins its new Church School year. We thank you for enrolling your child into our Religious Education Program because you have taken a paramount step to provide your entire family with the prospect of learning wonderful Orthodox Christian traditions and values through the instruction of your child, offered by our dedicated Church School staff.

Our Church School Staff is second to none and is an enthusiastic and devoted volunteer group of individuals who have been trained, and through years of experience allocate many long hours serving to help nurture your child into the faith, love and service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

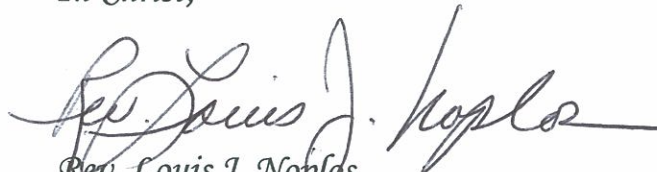
As caring parents we have a responsibility to our children, and to meet that responsibility we must stop listening to worldly wisdom and listen instead to eternal wisdom. The 'new world order' tells us to indulge our children and make sure that they are never uncomfortable or unhappy – to give them everything and let them do what they want. If we regard this philosophy entirely, we will feed our children's egos and starve their souls.

As your Spiritual Father, I ask that you as parents of our loving children, to become involved in the life of our Church and the religious education of your child as you would be involved in his/her secular education and extra-curricular activities; such as sporting events they may compete in, which in turn, keep many of them away from what is much more important – the Church and the teachings of Christ. We have your children one day a week and for such a short period of time, every minute counts! Please make a resolute effort to bring them to Church School every Sunday by 9:50AM. It remains up to you not to allow your children to be deprived of the most important education of their lives, as it is for **"their salvation and life eternal"** – indulge them in this!

This year, the Church School curriculum is detailed within this updated handbook. Please read through this entire booklet as it contains much information that can be learned and shared with your children. Doing so will help you continue to be an integral part of your child's spiritual development.

I pray that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ will continue to bless and keep us within His grace and in good health.

In Christ,

  
Rev. Louis J. Noplos  
Protopresbyter

11 September 2011

Dear Parents and Parishioners of Saint Demetrios:

Father Lou and Church School Teachers are collectively responsible to teach the young future leaders of our Holy Church the Orthodox Faith. Therefore, we remain committed to: (1) instruct doctrine, (2) invite our learners to do the work God has for them, and (3) offer the promise that our Creator's life-long blessings will surely come.

Whichever religious lessons are taught, we challenge ourselves to reach a little higher than we thought was possible. Two words, 'AIM HIGH' are a constant invitation throughout the lessons. By doing so, we encourage our students to want to regularly attend and serve our Church, do better in school and set sights higher for not only their future endeavors, but for their entire Orthodox lives. As religious educators, our goal is to help children think about, feel about and then, do something about embracing and living Holy Gospel principles. Through teaching a paramount principle of the gospel – faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, children learn that if they remain faithful and prayerfully reliant upon Him, He will always help them achieve things they thought were impossible.

Learning and teaching the Holy Bible are not optional activities to enter the Kingdom of God. They are the very means by which God's Word was offered to this earth, and by which we will earn eternal life. Also, our Lord and Savior's teachings provide the pathway to personal testimony, and no one can be spiritually 'saved in ignorance' (2 Thessalonians 1:8). On Sundays when we teach your children, we do so with virtue garnishing their thoughts and knowing that the Holy Spirit is our constant companion and spiritual guide; may It help us to always follow and teach the way of Christ's eternal light.

Our Church School Program requires a strong commitment on the part of each teacher, and our volunteer staff considers it a God-given privilege to train your children to become stewards for the service of God and of mankind, and devotes many hours beyond the classroom confines preparing weekly lesson plans. This privilege is taken quite seriously as teachers recognize that they have a pivotal mentoring role in the lives of their students, long after they graduate.

The Religious Education Program is a time-tested, effective method of discipleship, however it must also be a family-oriented ministry. Our only hopes are that parents will: bring their children regularly and on time, and gladly follow up on the lessons/activities, not only by reviewing and fixing them to memory, but also incorporate them into the daily life of the entire family. By becoming an 'extension' of the classroom at home, it affords the child opportunities to share what was learned, thereby giving much pride and pleasure to the entire family unit (and sometimes instruction as well) and best of all, it offers a gateway for parents to apply the religious lesson(s) learned on Sunday to the child's daily life. For the moral life-long benefits of our youth, as adults we must be sincere and make His Holy Teachings a priority. By investing of our time, Jesus Christ will surely reveal Himself and His Truth to us in the most unexpected and joyous of ways – through the children!

By way of the dogma and teachings of our Orthodox Faith, this new Ecclesiastical Saint Demetrios Church School year offers a renewed promise of religious and spiritual enrichment for all concerned. We humbly beseech your continued Prayers and support, and look forward to welcoming your children to class every Sunday at 9:50AM.

Faithfully yours, in HIS service.



GEORGE ZAVERDINOS  
Church School Director