October 18, 2026 **Luke the Evangelist**

The Epistle Reading is Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18. **The Gospel Reading** is Luke 10:16-21. These Readings may be found on pages 1344 and 1216 in the Holy Bible.

Today we remember: The Apostle and Evangelist Luke; Marinos the Elder, Martyr; Righteous Theodore and Symeon; Neomartyr Gabriel.

The Altar Table Lamp is lit by:

- Eva Fokianos ***in loving memory of*** her husband, Pericles Fokianos, who fell asleep in the Lord 4 years ago. May his memory eternal.

The Vigil Lamp is lit by:

- Georgia Kerasiotes ***in honor of*** her son, James, on the occasion of his name day and ***for the health and welfare of*** her children, Constantinos and George and her grandchildren, Nicholas, Jess, and Maggie. May God continue to look over them.

The Altar Bread was prepared by: Ritsa Economakis.

40-Day Baby Blessings: Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Manuel will present their second child, a son, and Mr. and Mrs. Elias Mavromatis will present their first child, a daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Lanne will present their first child, a daughter, for the traditional 40-day Baby Blessing. May God continue to watch over these families.

Coffee Hour: Please join us for the general assembly after Liturgy today, where the Philoptochos Ladies will offer lunch for purchase.

Narthex Greeter: Today's Narthex Greeter will be Paula Skleres.

Pastoral Visits: Parishioners who are in assisted living, nursing homes, hospitals, or those who would like a Pastoral visit, house blessing. graveside visit or confession, please contact the office at 410.661.1090.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is open to all who have been Baptized or Chrismated into the Orthodox Faith who have properly prepared. We welcome non-Orthodox attendees to come forward at the conclusion of the liturgy to receive blessed bread as our gift to you.

Confessions: Did you know that Confession is one of the Sacraments of the Church, and is offered year-round? If you are interested in going to Confession, please feel free to contact the church office (410.661.1090. press 1) to speak to either Father Lou or Father Karl so that an appointment can be made or see one of them after Liturgy. Please remember ***"What is said in Confession, Stays in Confession!"***

Parish Council Team A (Smaro Cook, Anthony Skevakis, George Polites, Jimmy Kastanaras and Mary Tsakiris) are scheduled to be on duty for the month of October.

Orthodox Studies: Please join us on **Wednesday, October 21st, 10:00am.** We are studying The Amazing Experiences during the Divine Liturgy. We meet in the boardroom, which is across from the elevator. All are welcome, we LOVE new members!! For more information, please contact Kevin Goodman at 410.530.1689.

Welcome: The Welcome Committee would like to thank all who are visiting our church today. Our church has many ministries that can help you learn about our faith and opportunities to join our community. If you would like to learn more about our church and the different ministries available to you, please text Lou Triandafilou at 410.456.5380.

Parish Assembly Meeting: The October Assembly will take place today, **Sunday, October 18th.** Topics will include stewardship, annual budget, construction updates, Parish Council nominations, and any topics that you bring to the floor.

2026 Stewardship: We are three quarters of the way through 2026, and we are slightly behind our 2025 pledge drive. Thank you to both the 393 stewards (89%) that have already submitted their 2026 pledges and the 20 Day Steward Sponsors! It is not too late to be a Day Steward!! If you have not already submitted your 2026 pledge, please do so as soon as possible! Our winter electric bill was over $17,000! Our financial security is dependent upon Stewardship, and we ask that you carefully consider your 2026 pledge. Due to inflation, our beloved church has experienced increased expenses just as you and I have experienced!!! Please consider increasing your pledge to help with our expenses! An increase of $2 to $3 per week would greatly help with our increased expenses! Can you believe that every $1 per week increase for our 444 stewards adds over $21,000 towards our 2026 Stewardship goal! Our ultimate goal is to support 100% of our operating budget through Stewardship. Won't you do all you can to bring this goal to fruition?

2026 Day Steward Initiative: For our 2026 Stewardship Drive, we are continuing the optional Day Sponsor Steward initiative. This optional initiative offers our stewards a personal milestone to sponsor the daily operating expenses for our parish. It is a milestone that many may find appealing and personally rewarding. The daily operating expenses of our beloved Saint Demetrios church are $2,000 including utilities, insurance, cleaning, maintenance, the commitment to the archdiocese, and parish salaries. These are the necessary expenses to ensure our beloved parish is open to everyone. Day Sponsor Stewards make and fulfill a minimum annual pledge of $2,000. Half-day Sponsor Stewards make and fulfill a minimum annual pledge of $1,000. Additional days may be sponsored in additional increments of $1,000 or $2,000. As a Day or Half-Day Sponsor, you may identify the specific day(s) you choose to sponsor. Choose any day throughout the year for a special occasion, in memory of or in honor of a loved one and submit on your 2026 pledge card. Day or Half-day Sponsor Stewards may remain anonymous or choose to be included by name in the church bulletin. Your stewardship pledge may also be made online at: http://www.stdemetriosmd.org Donate Now. After donating online, please send in your completed paper copy 2026 pledge card to the church office. Please contact Val Dzwonczyk at vdzwonc@hotmail.com if you have any questions about the Day Steward Initiative.

Income Tax Deduction: More people can take an income tax deduction on their income tax return for this year. Tax law changes for 2026 allow for an income tax deduction for contributions made to the Church – even if you don't itemize your deductions. For a joint couple, the 2026 deduction is up to $2,000 for contributions made before December 31, 2026. Please be aware that income tax rules are complicated and that this information is not to be taken as tax advice. You should contact your income tax advisor to review your personal tax situation to consider this tax law change and how it best fits into your overall tax strategies.

Next Sunday, October 25th, we will celebrate The Great Vespers for the Saint Demetrios Feast Day beginning at 5:00pm. The Philoptochos will be hosting coffee and a reception in The Hermes Rafailides Center following the Vespers.
Please plan to attend.
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Saint Demetrios Name Day: On Monday, October 26th, we will celebrate Saint Demetrios Name Day, with Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. Please make plans to join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Open to all children aged 3 (**as of August 31st**) through High School Seniors, lessons began on **September 13th, 2026,** and will conclude on **May 23rd, 2027.** Please see our website https://www.stdemetriosmd.org/ministries/orthodoxfaith-sunday-school/ for the link to the online registration form or use the QR code to register. If you have any questions, please email the school at SundaySchool.StDemetrios@gmail.com.

Our Sunday School Ministry is always looking for volunteers to teach or assist classes. We need substitutes who can fill in if any of our teachers need to take a week off. Should you be interested in offering your time and talents with this vital Orthodox Faith Ministry, or have any questions, please reach out to George Zaverdinos at 410.638.2637 or via email at zavirag@verizon.net or Karyn Skevakis at kskevakis@gmail.com.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos is PHILANTHROPY ~ FELLOWSHIP ~ FAITH IN ACTION!

Pickleball Schedule: The month of October, pickleball will be Co-ed Every **Wednesday 5:30-8:00pm**. **November dates are November 4th, 11th and 18th.** We have three courts and plenty of room to accommodate everyone. Please contact Joanna Beleos 410-458-1547 or Jbeleos@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Golden Seniors: Upcoming activity! Luncheon and Games, **Tuesday, November 3rd, 12:00-3:00pm** in the Hermes Rafailides Center. Rides can be arranged if needed. RSVP to Joanna Beleos 410-458-1547 or Tina Holder 410-627-6081,

Food Collection: During the month of October, we will be collecting boxes of cereal for the Baltimore Hunger Project to distribute to school children who have food insecurity over the weekends. Please leave the cereal boxes in the small blue bin by the cry room. Contact Barbara Vassos with questions. 302-463-6259.

Christmas Bazaar: We will be having our Annual Christmas Bazaar on **Saturday, November 14th, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.** We are still accepting vendors. If you know of anyone that may be interested in being a vendor, please let us know. You can contact Cristina Rosell Chakales at 3forme@chakales.com. Thank you!

YiaYia's Treasures: We are now collecting gently used Christmas decorations for our Yiayia's Treasures until **Monday, November 9th, 2026.** Anything brought after **November 9th** will not be accepted. You can bring items during coffee hour or make arrangements for drop-off by contacting Mary Tsakiris mtsakiris21@gmail.com 410-245-1291, Harriet Hart. lefty826@verizon.net 443-668-3344 or Linda Goodman lgagrn@gmail.com 410-615-5006. Please do not leave items in the hallway.

Exercise Classes: Chair exercise, low impact, stretch, movement, and balance class every **Thursday at 11:00am** in the Music Room. Dancercise/Zumba classes every **Saturday at 11:00am** usually in the Hermes Rafailides Center. Open attendance. Contact Linda Goodman to be on the notification list in case of class changes. lgagrn@gmail.com or 410-615-5006.

Next Meetings: Board Meeting on **Monday, November 2nd, at 6:30pm** in the Boardroom. General Meeting on **Monday, November 9th, at 6:30pm** in the Boardroom.

GOYA NEWS:

Mark your Calendars for our annual ***"Not Your YiaYia's Bingo"*** on **Friday, November 6th, 2026.** Registration, Kitchen, and Bar Opens at 5:30pm ~ Bingo starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are $40. Food, Soft Drinks, Beer, and Wine will be available to purchase, no outside food permitted. Please pick up a flyer from the Narthex Table. If you have any questions, please send an email to: stdemetriosmdgoya@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at our Bingo Event.

Follow us on our Facebook: Saint Demetrios GOYA Baltimore Maryland page https://www.facebook.com/groups/1678295413240075

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:

Join us on **Saturday, December 19th, 2026, at 12:00pm** as Saint Demetrios host the National Wreaths Across America Day ceremony and trisagion. In conjunction with this event, we are compiling a Veterans Biography Book to be distributed at church services on **Sunday, December 20th, 2026.** If you would like to submit a biography to honor a veteran in your family, or if you wish to support our fundraising or operational efforts for this year's wreaths, please reach out to Gregory Manuel at saintdemetrioswreaths@gmail.com. For more information, please go to the below URL: https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/180132/Overview/?relatedId=0.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Thank you to all who joined the Green Team for the "FAITH GROWS BY PIZZA" – Fall Harvest Fest: Braving the intermittent rain drops the garden tour spotlighted our herbs and figs, speakers shared their expertise on hosting a church pizza party, the benefits of container gardening, the use of everyday herbs as part of a healthy lifestyle and personal reflections of growing salad ingredients in Greece. The program concluded with a demo on rolling dolmades, and a tasting of this year's edition of Greek pizza made with zucchini, Greek coleslaw, and the sharing of recipes.

Pumpkin Season is here! Did you know pumpkins are highly nutritious and provide several health benefits? Pumpkins offer vitamin A and C, fiber, and antioxidants. Their traits support heart health, boost the immune system and aid in weight management.

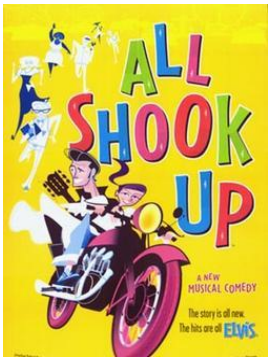
♦ Try roasting the seeds ~ separate the seeds from the stringy pulp; rinse the seeds; pat them dry and toss with olive oil and seasoning (like salt or cinnamon sugar). Roast at 400° until they are crunchy and golden brown.
♦ Make a pumpkin puree ~ roast or steam the pumpkin flesh until tender, then mash it into a smooth puree. The puree can be used in pies, muffins, bread, or even a soup base.
♦ Use the pumpkin 'guts' for broth ~ Boil the stringy pulp and fibrous parts along with chopped onions and chopped celery to create a flavorful soup or stew stock.
♦ Turn the pumpkin skin into chips ~ Slice the roasted skin into thin strips, toss with olive oil and pinch of salt, bake until crispy, Yum!
Who knew all the uses for that wonderful orange winter squash!

CONSIDER JOINING THE GREEN TEAM MINISTRY! We have fun and need YOU to carry out the work of being good stewards of God's gift to us, our 34-acre corner of His creation, Saint Demetrios church. Everyone is welcome! For more details about joining the team, contact Mary Triandafilou 443.435.4374.

Library News: Our library has a little something for everyone. Stop by and visit us and see what we have to offer. No time to stop in? Visit our Little Library: take a book and leave a book. If you do not have a book to leave, take one anyway. We have plenty to share. Would you like to join a ministry that does not have a lot of meetings and only needs an hour or so of your time? We would love to meet you. We can always use your help.

The Book and Knitting Club will meet on **Tuesday, November 10th, 9:00am-12:00pm** in the library. The book of the month is ***"The Wishing Game"*** *by Meg Shaffer.* All are welcome whether you knit, crochet, sew, or just want some friendly conversation.

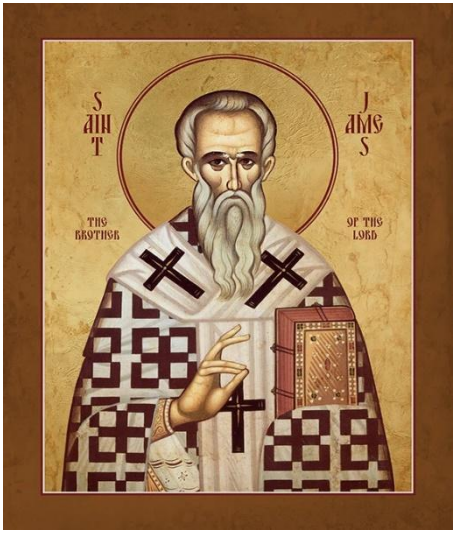
AHEPA Worthington Chapter Veterans Day Luncheon is **November 15th, from 2:00-5:00pm** at Pappas Restaurant in Cockeysville. Cost $45. Pick up a flyer from the Narthex Table for details and RSVP by **November 9th** to mprevas@outlook.com.



SUBURBAN PLAYERS:

Saint Demetrios Suburban Players is proud to announce "***All Shook Up"*** which performs **February 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 26th and 27th.**

All Shook Up is a jukebox musical featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, with a book by Joe DiPietro. Set in the summer of 1955 in a small Midwestern town, the story follows Chad, a guitar-playing roustabout who is released from jail and brings excitement to the town. The plot centers around Natalie Haller, a mechanic who yearns for love and adventure, and her best friend Dennis, who secretly loves her. The musical combines themes of romance, mistaken identities, and the transformative power of music, drawing inspiration from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.



Did you know…?

Holy Apostle JAMES, Brother of our Lord
23 October

The Holy Apostle James, also known as James the Just or *Adelphotheos* (Brother of our Lord), was a prominent leader of the early Christian Church and the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He is distinct from the other Apostles named James—namely, James the son of Zebedee and James the son of Alphaeus.

The Holy Apostle James was the son of the Righteous Joseph before he was betrothed to the Most Holy Theotokos. Tradition says that Joseph had other sons with his first wife. Thus, James was called the Lord's brother.

When the Savior began to proclaim the Kingdom of God, Saint James believed in Christ and became His Apostle. Later, he was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He led the Jerusalem Church for roughly 30 years, becoming known as a primary "pillar of the Church" alongside Saints Peter and John. He presided over the Council of Jerusalem around 50 AD, where his closing judgment and guidance on Gentile converts proved decisive (Acts 15).

He lived a strict ascetic life as a Nazirite, known for his deep piety, prayer, and devotion to Jewish law and custom. Tradition attributes the New Testament Epistle of James to him, and he is credited with composing one of the ancient divine liturgies of the early Church.

Around 62 AD, he was put to death in Jerusalem by Jewish priestly authorities. Accounts state he was cast down from the pinnacle (or roof) of the Temple and then beaten to death with a club or stoned.

Saint James the Apostle is also commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, with the Prophet-King David and Saint Joseph the Betrothed.

Troparion: Tone 4

As the Lord's disciple you received the Gospel, O Just one; / as a martyr you have unfailing courage; / as the Brother of the Lord, you have boldness; / as a hierarch, you are able to intercede. / Entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE OF THE WEEK
"TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE"

In every Liturgy God brings words of eternal life through the Scripture readings and the sermon. Through the Sacrament of Communion, He comes to be born again and again in the shabby stables of our hearts. He is able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, and transfiguring ministry through the Church.

Are you actively serving God, sharing Him with others? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life considering these principles. We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education, and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS

	Budget Commitment	Goal ~ Total Operating Budget *	Total Commitments to Date	Collections to Date	# Of Stewards
2025	$380,000	$734,122	$392,521	$328,460	399
2026	$395,000	$763,750	$390,029	$328,208	393

Our goal as Christian Stewards is to fund 100% of the Church operating budget

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, October 19th
Pre-School, 8:30am
Greek School, 4:30pm

Tuesday, October 20th
Pre-School, 8:30am
GOYA Basketball, 6:00pm
Parish Council Meeting, 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 21st
Pre-School, 8:30am
Orthodox Studies, 10:00am
Greek School, 4:30pm
Pickleball, 5:30pm
Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Thursday, October 22nd
Pre-School, 8:30am
Chair Exercise Class, 11:00am
Adult Basketball, 6:00pm

Friday, October 23rd
Pre-School, 8:30am
Vesper Set-Up

Saturday, October 24th
Vesper Set-Up
Kitchen Cleaning

Sunday, October 25th
6th Sunday of Luke
Orthros, 9:00am
Divine Liturgy, 10:00am
Orthodox Faith Sunday School, 9:55am
Saint Demetrios Vespers and Reception, 5:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saint Demetrios Feastday Divine Liturgy ~ Monday, October 26th at 10:00am

Pre-School ~ Monday, October 26th through Friday, October 30th at 8:30am
Greek School ~ Monday, October 26th and Wednesday, October 28th at 4:30pm
GOYA Basketball ~ Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00pm
Orthodox Studies ~ Wednesday, October 28th at 10:00am
Pickleball~ Wednesday, October 28th at 5:30pm
Chair Exercise Class ~ Thursday, October 28th at 11:00am
Adult Basketball ~ Thursday, October 29th at 6:00pm
Pre-School Halloween Event ~ Friday, October 30th at 3:00pm
Dancercise/Zumba ~ Saturday, October 31st at 11:00am