

Sunday 11th of February 2024

Venerable Demetrios, Wonderworker of Priluki

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Kontakion – Tone 2

Godly shoot, unfading flower, / most fruitful branch of Christ the Vine, God-bearing Blaise, / fill with joy those who in faith honor your memory / as you unceasingly intercede for us all.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and irene.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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The WEEKLY BULLETIN
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

February 11th, 2024

VENERABLE DEMETRIOS, WONDERWORKER OF PRILUKI, VOLOGDA - Saint Demetrios (Dēmétrios) of Priluki, Wonderworker, was born into a rich merchant's family in Pereyasavl-Zalesk. From his youth the saint was uncommonly handsome. Receiving monastic tonsure at one of the Pereyasavl monasteries, the saint later founded the Saint Nicholas cenobitic monastery on the Saints Boris and Gleb Hill at the shore of Lake Plescheevo near the city, and became its igumen. In 1334 Saint Demetrios first met with Saint Sergius of Radonezh, who had come to Pereyasavl to see Metropolitan Athanasius. From that time, he frequently conversed with Saint Sergius and became close with him. The fame of the Pereyasavl igumen was so widespread that he became godfather to the children of Great Prince Demetrios Ioannovich. Under the influence of the Radonezh wonderworker, Saint Demetrios decided to withdraw to a remote place, and went north with his disciple Pachomius. In the Vologda forests, at the River Velika, near the Avnezh settlement, they built a church of the Resurrection of Christ and they prepared to lay the foundations for a monastery. The local inhabitants were fearful that if a monastery were built there, their village would become monastery property. They demanded that the monks leave their territory, and wishing to be a burden to no one, they moved farther away. Not far from Vologda, at the bend of a river in an isolated spot, Saint Demetrios decided to form the first of the cenobitic monasteries of the Russian North. The people of Vologda and the surrounding gladly consented to help the saint. The owners of the land intended for the monastery, Elias and Isidore, even trampled down a grain field, so that a temple might be built immediately. In 1371 the wooden Savior cathedral was built, and brethren began to gather. Many disciples of the monk came there from Pereyasavl. Saint Demetrios combined prayer and strict asceticism with kindness. He fed the poor and hungry, he took in strangers, he conversed with those in need of consolation, and he gave counsel. He loved to pray in solitude. His Lenten food consisted of prosphora with warm water. Even on feastdays, he would not partake of the wine and fish permitted by the Rule. Both winter and summer he wore an old sheepskin coat, and even in his old age he went with the brethren on common tasks. The saint accepted contributions to the monastery cautiously, so that the welfare of the monastery would not be detrimental to those living nearby. The Lord granted His servant the gift of clairvoyance, and he attained a high degree of spiritual perfection. Saint Demetrios died at an advanced age on February 11, 1392. The brethren approaching found him as though asleep, and his cell was filled with a wondrous fragrance. Miracles from the relics of Saint Demetrios began in the year 1409, and during the fifteenth century his veneration spread throughout all Rus. And no later than the year 1440, the Priluki monk Macarius recorded his Life (Great Reading Menaion, February 11) based on the narratives of Saint Demetrios's disciple Igumen Pachomius.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 10th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 11th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 17th of February

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 18th of February

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday 25th of February – after coffee hour

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation, and ask any questions you may have.

Call for a Prayer

The Rev. Father Gregory White is recovering from a heart attack. He is in great spirits and improving by day. Matushka Kathy is also struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your prayers. Matushka Katherine White wants everyone at Holy Spirit to know they are very grateful for their prayers.

New Catechumen

Leliana (Lilly) Perez became a catechumen at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church on Sunday, February 4th, 2024. Please pray for Lilly, Joan, Olivia, Edgar, Travis, and Finlay.

Good News

Elizaveta Rudneva and Robert Ruther Ford recently joined our church. Let us extend a warm welcome to them and take a moment to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Again, welcome and our blessings Liza and Rob.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On February 25th of 2024, after a brief coffee hour, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting, we will vote for acceptance of the Budget Proposal for 2024. We will also reflect on Parish life throughout the year 2023. We will remember all the achievements of our Parish as well as point out all our shortcomings that hopefully, we will address during 2024. Parish Annual Meeting is the congregational event and as such we are all expected to be present.

Blessing of Homes and Blessed Water

If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com. Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

Contribution Letters

Yearly contribution letters are now available in the Narthex. Please take yours and thank you for your support.

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com