

STRATEGIC PLANNING 2009-2011

FATHER DAVID BISSIAS

Recognizing a slow decline in Parish membership over the last decade, the Parish Council has “added” some responsibilities to our PC Stewardship Committee. The committee is now tasked with “Membership” activities to seek ways to grow our Parish.

You may recall, Vice President Demetri Yannakopoulos spoke on this initiative at our May Parish Assembly, noting that we seek new members from those who never had a church home of their own (non-churched), those who have lapsed from their membership (unchurched), while strengthening the participation and commitment of our own current members (churched). In fact this is our main duty as a Parish in fulfillment of the Lord’s Great Commission.

It is also something we have not really ever done in a conscious way at Saint Demetrios with a concerted, definitive effort. There are several reasons for this, which are not as important as the reason to grow the Parish. The reason is not because we need more money. The reason is not because we are competing with anyone—other than the Devil.

If our parish membership is declining (and it is, but mostly now due to more funerals than baptisms), this means we are fundamentally failing in our mission. Of course, if you do not try, you cannot succeed, and for too long we have not really tried to bring new members into the Church. We are going to be trying from now on. Yet this is not really a “job” of the Parish Council. It is a “job” and task for every member of the Church and every follower of Jesus Christ!

“A failure to plan is a plan for failure.” While I have laid out certain plans over the years, and other Parish leaders have developed certain plans, at Saint Demetrios we have never really had a good, solid, workable “strategic plan.” That is now changing.

The “Stewardship/Membership” Committee of the Parish Council, together with our ministry leaders—mainly the Outreach Ministries Committee—is in the process of developing a comprehensive strategic plan to grow the parish—in the commitment of the churched (current members), the unchurched (lapsed members) and the non-churched (non-Orthodox).

For some time, we have been “brainstorming” and becoming familiar with a process that is new to our parish. It is now time to start planning in earnest. This will require a lot of effort and a lot of assistance from our parishioners, especially when we put our plan into action.

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SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7021-33 HOHMAN AVENUE HAMMOND, IN 46324 REV. DAVID G. BISSIAS, PASTOR

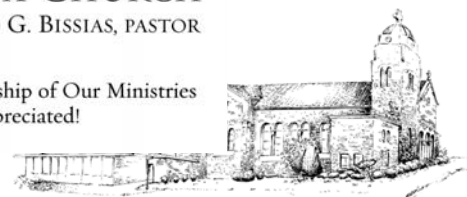
PHONE: (219) 932-7347

FAX: (219) 932-7136

EMAIL: stdemhammond@sbcglobal.net

WEB: www.stdemetrioshammond.org

Your Stewardship of Our Ministries
Is Deeply Appreciated!



Liturgical Calendar & Outreach Updates

STRATEGIC PLANNING 2009-2011 (CONTINUED)

The full strategic plan will soon be posted on our Internet website, while a printed version will be made available to interested persons by the November Parish Assembly. This will include targeted goals for the coming years, and will necessarily affect the 2010 Budget.

I am grateful to the initial and current members of the Membership Committee (Demetri Yannakopoulos, Steve Karnezis, Andrew Stefanik, Bill Delis, Ted Vrehas, George Karras and President Thomas Katsahnias). Together with Outreach Ministries Committee Coordinator Carole Yarovsky and her Ministry Coordinators, we are looking for new ways to serve you, to serve the greater community, and to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We ask for your help and your prayers!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR: AUGUST 2009

Wednesday, August 5

AT the Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Harvard, IL
7:00 p.m. Great Vespers and Blessing of the Loaves
(*Artoklasia*)

Thursday, August 6

Feast of the Transfiguration of our Savior
8:30 a.m. Divine Services (*Orthros* and Divine Liturgy)
with Blessing of Grapes

Friday, August 7

7:00 p.m. Supplication Service (*Paraklesis*)

Monday, August 10

7:00 p.m. Supplication Service (*Paraklesis*)

Wednesday, August 12

7:00 p.m. Supplication Service (*Paraklesis*)

Friday, August 14

Forefeast of the Dormition
At Assumption Church of Hegewisch, IL; Olympia Fields,
IL; Chicago, IL:
7:00 p.m. Great Vespers of the Dormition

Saturday, August 15

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
(Services at Hegewisch, IL or Olympia Fields, IL)

Sunday, August 23

Outdoor Divine Liturgy & Family Picnic
White Oak Park, Munster, IN (White Oak Ave., ¼ mile
south of 45th Street)

9:00 a.m. Service of Preparation

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Note: In event of rain, Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 a.m.
at Saint Demetrios.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE...

A special thanks to those who have made monetary donations to our food pantry. Your donations enabled us to purchase over 130 packages of hot dogs this summer, which were donated to the Northwest Family Child Development Center. Your continued support is greatly appreciated, as the need to fill food pantries in Northwest Indiana remains high.



Please help restock our food pantry shelves! Non-perishables of every food item are desperately needed. While a few social service agencies in our area have benefited from your generosity, they are still experiencing shortages in food donations.

Help get the kids off to a healthy start in their school day with a Breakfast for Champions! Participate in our Cereal/Breakfast Drive from Sundays, August 23 - September 20. On August 23, please bring your donations to the Outdoor Liturgy at White Oak Park.

BACK TO SCHOOL...

Help children get off to a good school year by purchasing a School Kit. Kits will be available from August 2-30 and can be purchased for \$10.00 at the Book Store. The kits will be sent to IOCC and distributed to needy children around the world.



Church School Registration

Below is a **form to register ALL students** in our Sunday Church School Program. Please note the following instructions:

1. Parents/guardians of Church School students must be currently pledged members of the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church *unless specific arrangements are made with the Parish Priest by a parent/guardian*. Exceptions cannot be allowed. A current pledge form is required for enrollment and participation. There are no additional fees or tuition.
2. Students should maintain Church School enrollment in the same grade level as in their academic education. Church School enrollment is available from preschool through High School.
3. New students entering our Preschool program must be three (3) years of age on or before **September 1, 2009**. "Preschool" should be entered below under "Grade." Only students enrolled in Kindergarten in their academic school will be enrolled in Church School Kindergarten, regardless of previous Preschool attendance.
4. Students must be accompanied to, from, and while at church by a responsible parent/guardian. If someone other than a parent/guardian will be responsible on a regular basis, please inform us.
5. Questions about enrollment and registration should be forwarded to our Church School Coordinator or Father David at the Parish Office (219-932-7347).

Sunday Church School Registration Form: 2009-2010

Please return to Parish Office by **August 23, 2009**. Classes begin Sunday, September 13, 2009.

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Address: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Student Information

1. Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

2. Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

3. Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

4. Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

5. Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

As a family, we are pledged stewards of Saint Demetrios: **yes** _____ **no** _____



Socrates Greek School Registration

Parents of our parish are **urged to take advantage** of the **wonderful opportunity** provided by your parish to teach our children not only a language, but the cultural tradition of our forefathers, the Church and many of our families. Students are introduced to language skills, Greek history and customs, traditional dance and song, poetry and the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church. It is so important to not only speak a second language but also to appreciate one's cultural heritage. Give your children that opportunity!



Registration for our Socrates Greek School will be held **Wednesday, September 2, 2009** between **3:00—4:30 p.m.** Registration is open to children ages 6 through 12 years. Registration may be conducted by mail, but must be received and approved no later than September 8, 2009.

Classes schedules will be announced following registration (grade levels alternating by day to be announced following registration).

Class times are 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuition for the School Year 2009-2010 is required **in full** upon registration, without exception. Enrollment requires membership in good standing with the parish of Saint Demetrios or alternate arrangements made with the approval of the Parish Priest and Parish Council President. If you are not certain about your standing, please contact the Church office prior to enrollment.

A sliding scale of tuition has been adopted to accommodate families with several children in our program. It is as follows:

1 child:	\$ 200.00	3 children:	\$400.00	5 children:	\$600.00
2 children:	\$ 325.00	4 children:	\$475.00		



See Form on Following Page
Remember to submit this form by September 8!

Socrates Greek School Registration Form

2009-2010

Student's Name: _____ **New student?** _____
(ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ)

Grade: _____ **Date of Birth:** ____/____/____
(ελληνικό σχολείο) **Month Day Year**

Student's Name: _____ **New student?** _____
(ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ)

Grade: _____ **Date of Birth:** ____/____/____
(ελληνικό σχολείο) **Month Day Year**

Student's Name: _____ **New student?** _____
(ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ)

Grade: _____ **Date of Birth:** ____/____/____
(ελληνικό σχολείο) **Month Day Year**

Father's Name: _____ **Mother's Name:** _____
Ονομα Πατρός Μητρός

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Member of Saint Demetrios:** Yes _____ No _____

Total Tuition: \$ _____

JOIN US FOR AN "EVENING IN PARIS"

Our most important fundraiser of the year is around the corner! Plan now to join us for a night of fun with family and friends. Our style show committee is anticipating a fantastic evening for all, showcasing the latest in fashion flair for women and men. After enjoying a menu of French-inspired appetizers, dinner and dessert, sit back and prepare to be entertained! Our show will feature two new clothing boutiques for women, casual and formal wear for men...plus a few surprises. Don't miss out on the opportunity to purchase tickets to win big in our cash and prize raffles - we have the best prize offerings in the area! And everyone can go home a winner by purchasing a variety package of sweets baked especially for the show. New at this year's show: a "Silent Surprise" Auction. You will definitely want to check out this auction with a twist!



But our show is not just all fun; it's our main source of operating income. It is our hope and prayer that our community will faithfully continue to support our events to ensure that we continue our tradition of love and service to our church and community. Please contact our style show committee chairmen to offer your help and to reserve seating:

Kristine Stamos, General Chairman, models:	219-455-3350
Bessie Stamos, Program Book Ads:	708-895-1468
Georgia Karnezis, Advance (Cash) Raffle:	219-923-9784
Mia Delis, Raffle of the Day:	219-313-8759
Toula Delis, Dinner Reservations:	219-313-9362

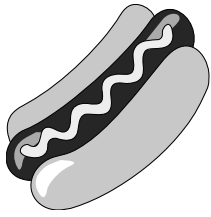
The Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society
of Hammond, Indiana
Cordially Invites You to Attend
Evening in Paris
A Dinner and Fashion Presentation
Thursday, September 10, 2009

Andorra Banquets
1112 Route 41, Schererville, IN
Cocktail Hour 6 pm Dinner 7 pm
Donation: \$32 per person

Fashions by:
Ms. Elle's
Dunhill Tuxedo
PJs of Crown Point
Calumet Harley Davidson
R.S.V.P. Toula Delis 219-313-9362

Outdoor Liturgy and Family Picnic

Announcing...Saint Demetrios' Annual



Family Picnic

Sunday, August 23

White Oak Park in Munster, IN

(White Oak Avenue, ¼ mile south of 45th Street)



- *Divine Liturgy in the Park: 9:30 a.m. (Dress for the picnic!)*
- *Monthly S.O.U.L. Offering (the Seeds Of oUr Love!)*
- *Lunch's Main Course courtesy of Your Parish Council*
- *Playground for the little ones!*
- *Remember to bring your own side dishes and drinks, lawn chairs and blankets, games and sporting equipment!*
- *Church School Registrations Collected for your convenience!*
- *In case of rain, we'll begin with worship at Church at 10:00 a.m....and still have lunch together in our Mediterranean Room!*



Vacation Bible School – June 2009

ParishWebsite:
Parish Email:
Article Submissions (by the 15th of each month):

www.stdemetrioshammond.org
stdemhammond@sbcglobal.net
tyarovsky@sbcglobal.net