

BAD MEMBERS

FATHER DAVID BISSIAS

There are some bad people in the world, but I do not believe that persons who join the Church are bad in principle. I cannot think of any “bad” persons who are members of our parish. There are persons who have problems—sometimes bad problems—and persons who make mistakes (sometimes bad mistakes), but nobody who claims to be a member of the Church is “bad” in principle. While they may not always live up to the principles of the Christian faith (something that happens to all of us at times), if they did not want to be good there would be no reason to be a member of the Church!

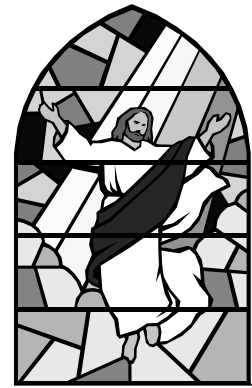
We do, however, have bad *members* of the Parish. There is a difference between being a bad person and being a bad member of the Parish. Good persons—really good, nice, kind and sensitive people—can be bad members of the Parish. Some of the most likeable people are bad members of their parish. Many of my relatives whom I love dearly are bad members of their parishes.

A bad member of the parish is someone who does not try to be a good member of the parish, plain and simple. Now some may not know what it means to be a good member, and think they are doing nothing wrong. Others may know better, but have stopped trying to be good members for a variety of reasons (even some caused by other parishioners). Others simply do not care about being good members of the parish.

But there are standards that define good members of the Church and of the parish. Good members are those who, according to our Archdiocesan Regulations,

- adhere to and try to live according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith;
- seek to faithfully attend the Divine Liturgy and other worship services;
- participate regularly in the holy sacraments;
- respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church;
- are obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order;

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SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

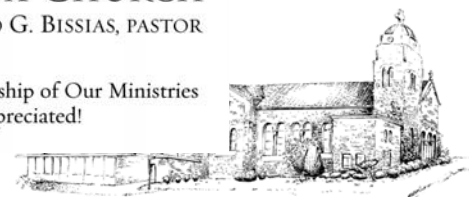
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Your Stewardship of Our Ministries
Is Deeply Appreciated!



Outreach Updates

BAD MEMBERS (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

- contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission;
- and are an effective witness and example of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions to all people.

Bad members don't know and don't try to learn the teachings of the Faith. Bad members don't attend services regularly, and do not regularly prepare to partake of the sacraments. Bad members don't fill out stewardship forms on time (at the beginning of the year, not the end), and don't fulfill their pledge or, at least, call to change their pledge if they cannot.

Bad members think they can pick and choose among the teachings of the Church as is most convenient for them, while ignoring others—in principle.

Bad members don't believe they have to do anything other than be "good people."

Bad members believe they can stay away from Church for months at a time, as long as they get the kids back in time for Church School.

Bad members believe the Church is here for them, rather than members living for the Church.

Being a good member does not mean perfection. It means recognition of one's duty as a soldier for Christ and the Holy Church. It means striving for perfection as a principle, even when we do not achieve it.

It is important to be a good person. But there are many unbelievers in the world who are good, generous, kind and likeable. Your salvation does not simply depend on being "good" according to the standards of the world. It depends on being a good member of the Body of Christ. And of course, you cannot achieve this on your own; it is God's grace that makes one a good member. But God does not force you to be good, and God does not force you to be a good member. That choice is up to you.

SAVE THE DATE

Walk with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana in their efforts to fight hunger! Participate in their walk on Saturday, October 17th at Wicker Park in Munster. Watch for more details!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to fellow parishioner Pete Dremonas who celebrated his 85th birthday on August 1, and to Nick and Ann Giannakis on their 50th wedding anniversary celebrated on August 16. We wish you many, many more years!



REMINDER...

We thank all those who brought breakfast foods for our **Breakfast for Champions** drive (August 23—September 20)!

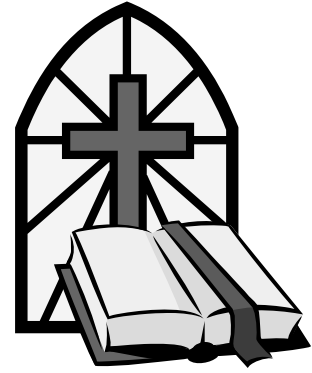
Above and beyond our special drives, we accept donations to our food pantry throughout the year! Collection baskets are in the entryway (Narthex) of the Church and in each Church School classroom!

A.R.E. (Adult Religious Education) You Ready?

Searching the Scriptures Bible Study

7:00—9:00 p.m. *First and Third Thursdays of the Month, Beginning September 17*

Our weekly Bible Study will now be meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month. Bring a friend and join our fellowship!



Preference is given to *The Orthodox Study Bible* available in our bookstore, but any Bible will do, and if you don't have one or forget, we have some, too!

This Fall we will be focusing on the biblical basis of the Creed in the Old and New Testaments, and why we confess the faith in the manner we do!

Orthodox Mentoring: Godparents and Sponsors in the Faith

7:00—9:00 p.m. *Second Thursday of the Month, Beginning October 8*

We need your help in bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ! While some may go out to the "highways and hedges" to preach the Good News, we also need persons to assist those who have decided to enter the Church.

Sponsors for adult converts to the faith, and prospective Godparents for the newly baptized have a special role in the life of the Church: to help instruct and train new Christians for a life in Christ. Doing this requires training (how can you help others if you don't know what to do?).

Join us to learn how to be good Orthodox "mentors" and sponsors in the Faith each month. Open to all persons 18 years and older.

Orthodox Christianity 101: Basic Training

7:00—9:00 p.m. *Mondays this Fall, beginning September 28*

From the creation of the world to the end of time (and everything in between), "basic training" is an adult class based on your questions about the Orthodox Church. If you don't have questions, you're probably already doing something wrong! But if you cannot think of any, we have some questions for you!

Stained Glass Windows

Inside Saint Demetrios: Study the Stained Glass Windows

The beautiful stained glass windows of our church depict various scenes from the life of Christ and emphasize His teachings and represent basic truths. This month we describe the north aisle windows from west to east:

The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary – The Angel Gabriel is shown announcing to the Virgin Mary that she has been chosen to become the Mother of God. The small window beneath this scene depicts the Virgin as Queen of all.



The Presentation of Jesus to the Temple – This scene shows Jesus being taken to the Temple by the blessed Virgin forty days after His birth in keeping with the Jewish Law and tradition. Saint Simeon is shown receiving and blessing the Christ Infant at the Temple. The small window beneath depicts two doves, which were offered as a sacrifice.

The Virgin and Child – The scene depicts Jesus, the boy, with His Mother. The small window beneath this scene shows Jesus helping His caretaker, Joseph, who was a carpenter by trade.

Jesus in the Temple – At the young age of 12, Jesus is shown in the Temple, speaking to the learned elders and astounding them with His knowledge. Beneath this scene is shown the Good Shepherd who seeks and finds the lost lamb.

The Baptism of our Lord – Saint John the Baptist is shown baptizing our Lord in the River Jordan. The peacock in the small window under this scene is a symbol of new life in Christ.

Jesus Praying – Jesus is shown praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before His betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. Beneath is the Chalice and Cross symbolizing the salvation which Christ's crucifixion and death and resurrection brought to mankind.



The Crucifixion – Jesus is shown on the Cross, sacrificing His life for us. The small window below shows the Theotokos, with Saint John the Evangelist and Mary Magdalene, as they kept watch near the Cross.

The Ascension – Forty days after His glorious Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven where he sits at the right hand of the Father in his throne of glory. The flaming wheel in the small window is a symbol of the Ascension.

2009 Stewardship:

As we enter the final quarter of the year, we have (as of September 15):

- 256 Stewardship Pledges
- \$176,332.00 total pledged (a \$688.80 average)
- \$142,160.00 collected to date

Of our pledges, 107 pledges remained the same from last year, 80 pledges were increased from last year, and 37 decreased from last year.

We have obtained 32 pledges from persons or families that did not pledge last year. There are about 75 persons or families that have not yet pledged.

If you have not yet pledged for 2009, remember:

- There is no minimum or maximum, but pledging *something*—if only \$1.00—is required to be a member in good standing.
 - You may pledge by obtaining a Pledge Form at church on Sundays or on our webpage (www.stdemetrioshammond.org).
 - We depend on you!
-

We thank the following members of our Parish for submitting their 2009 Stewardship Pledge! (continued on the next two pages).

(“+” indicates parishioners reposing in the Lord).

Fuad & Alice Abu El-Edam
Mike & Antonia Alexiou
Spero & Laura Alexiou
Arist & Helen Andreatos
Jim & Chris Aneziris
Helen Anton
Stella Argeroudis
Chris & Ismini Arges
Chris J. Arges
Gus & Demetra Arges
Christine Athanasoulis
Evangeline Athanasoulis
Gust & Georgia Avgerinos
Adrienne Baltages
Dennis Barkas
James Barkas
Henry & Evelyn Bayego
Bessie Belos+
Mary Bereolos
George & Cleo Bizoukas

Nick & Diane Bizoukas
Peter Bollas
John J. Botsko
John & Theoni Boufis
George Brahos
George & Cathy Brousalis
Nathan & Catherine Carras
George & Voula Chioros
John & Pella Chioros
Tom & Georgia Chioros
Bertha Chipokas
Chris Choros
Pete & Staci Choros
Tom & Niki Choros
Nick & Linda Cominos
Dean & Helen Condes
John & Crissy Condes
Finis & Sylvia Coulis
Karen Coulis
Paul & Becky Coulis

Steve & Dena Coulis
Len & Audrey Covello
William & Merry Kay Davis
Chris & Effie Davlantes
Bill & Mia Delis
Tom & Toulia Delis
Bess Demopoulos +
Alexandra Dimitriadis
Chris & Anita Douglas
John & Elaine Douglas
Chris & Janet Dremonas
Lela Dremonas
Peter & Ann Dremonas
Dawn Finnie
Peter & Jane Floutsis
George & Kathy Fotopoulos
Katherine Fraggos
Deno & Helen Frankos
John & Belinda Galanos
Gus & Sylvia Gavrilos

Stewardship & You

John & Denise Georgacakes	Peter & Helen Kounelis	Anastasia Polite
Koula Geros	Efthemios & Athanasia Koutropoulos	Viola Porter
Nick & Ann Giannakis	Joe & Denise Kus	Bessie Poulos
Gus & Helen Giannakoulas	Stan & Jennie Kyri	George & Diane Poulos
Louis & Angeline Gikas	James & Georgia Lagos	Georgia Poulos
George & Penny Golfis	Bertha Lekas	John & Dina Priess
Spero & Jennie Gregory	William & Irene Lekas	Pete & Zoe Ramos
Helen Greven	Mike & Evelyn Leonakis	Dee Raysses
Elaine Haltek	Mary Leontaras	Antonio & Ioanna Reyna
John & Sofia Halvatzis	Nick & Helen Liaskos	Evangeline & Shawn Roberts
Effie Hanes	Robert & Rhea Lindemann	George & Patricia Rogers
Matina Condes-Harris	George Loxas	Pete Rogers
Jerry & Carol Hughes	John & Margarita Loxas	Jim & Nancy Rondot
Steve & Dionne Hulsey	Nicholas & Angela Loxas	Alex J. Sakelaris
Gus Iatrides	Peter Loxas	Alex P. Sakelaris
Helen Iatrides	Peter & Christine Loxas	Angelo & Katherine Sakelaris
John & Connie Iatrides	Zisimos & Dina Loxas	Jim & Kris Sakelaris
Dessie Jokich	Tula Lunsford	Nicki Sakelaris
William & Magdaline Kallas	John+ & Marion Maniotes	Pete & Stacia Sakelaris
Michael Kambiss	Gust & Helen Manous	Stelios & Sophia Sakoutis
Efrosine Kanellakes	Ioanna Sroge-Manous	Arthur & Dolly Sell
Mary Karabatak	Perry & Kelly Manous	Christine Sellas
Peter & Tina Karagan	Constantine Margeas	Peter & Andrea Sellis
Gregory & Georgia Karalis	Haido Margeas	Nick & Pat Serentelos
Eunice Karambelas	Heidi Margeas	Nicky Shick
Pete & Nancy Karegianes	John & Tina Margeas	Peter & Pat Siavelis
Paul & Kathy Karnezis	Michael & Nicolette Martell	Tim & Kristina Simic
Steve & Georgia Karnezis	Kevin & Barbara Martewicz	Bobby Sirounis
Demetrios & Maria Karountzos	Thespena Megremis	Danny & Lori Sirounis
George & Becky Karras	Chris Metz	Gust & Mary Sirounis
Nathan & Kathryn Karras	Asimina Mitrakis	Susan Ramsey – Smith
Peter & Pauline Katagas	Chris Mitrakis	Pete & Athena Snarskis
John & Georgia Katris	John & Jean Morfas	Lillian Sobat
Thomas & Ann Katsahnias	Meta Morfas+	Theodore & Barbara Sofos
Peter & Georgia Katsaros	Greg & Daphne Murzyn	Panagiota & Andy Sotiropoulos
Peter & Maria Katsepas	Harriet Nawrocki	Brad & Jacqueline Sowinski
Frank & Linda Katsinis	Emmanuel Netos	Brian Sowinski
Georgia Kavadias	Nicholas & Helen Netos	John & Angela Sowinski
Nick & Helen Kikalos	Michael & Nancy Nicholas	Konstantine & Tina Stamatias
George & Angela Kioussis	Pete Nicholas	Bessie Stamos
Andrew & Margaret Kokotis	George & Penelope Obradovich	John J. Stamos
Theodora Koktsidis	Paul & Nichole Pallas	Paula Stamos
Vasilios & Olga Koktsidis	Michael & Anastasia Pantazis	Catherine Stasinis
Jim Kollintzas	Penny Papadatos	Andrew & Debbie Stefanik
Tom & Mary Kollintzas	Peter & Guadalupe Papanikolaou	Julian Stefanik
Ann Korellis	Peter & Theresa Papanikolaou	Sam & Kiki Stefanopoulos
George & Harriet Korellis	Alex+ & Argy Papas	Tom & Pauline Stevens
Gus Korellis	Elizabeth Pappas	Constantinos & Maria Svoliantopoulos
Pete & Susan Korellis	Nick & Beatrice Paravantes	John & Athena Svolos
Frances Koremenos	Sophie Parkis	Mary Szumelda
Maria Kosmakos	Mary Pavlakis	Tom & Kristina Taylor
George & Kimberly Kosmas	Nick & Jessica Pavlakis	John & Connie Toyias
Ann Kostopanagiotou	Mike & Olga Pellegrino	Artemis Comet Trebellas
Paul Kostopanagiotou	Nicole Pellegrino	Helen & Peter Trgovich
James & Nancy Kostopoulos	Lisa Pennington	George & Koula Tsakopoulos
Katina Kotsis	Phyllis Pennington+	Tom & Andrea Tsakopoulos
Barbara Koufous	Elizabeth Petrov	George & Anastasia Tsirtsis
George & Venesa Kounelis	Demetrios & Helen Pitsas	

Stewardship & You

George & Christine Tsirtsis	James & Irene Vrehas	Mike & Adamantia Yannakopoulos
James & Effie Tsoraidis	Pat Vrehas	James & Carole Yarovsky
Audrey Tsouchlos	Theodore & Kathy Vrehas	Tina Yarovsky
George & Charlene Tsoutsouris	Angela Weis	Haroula Yoshikane
Chris & Liz Valavanis	George Xidias	Mary Yusi
Lorraine Vambakas	Nick Xidias	Mary & James Zmuda
Dina Vasili	Paraskevi Xidias	Dante & Theodora Zorzi
Tom & Nancy Vlahos	Demetrios & Denise Yannakopoulos	Kathy Zotos
Ted & Helen Vlamis	George & Helen Yannakopoulos	

COMING UP!

JOY/HOPE Outing in October

Joy/Hope is planning a Pumpkin Patch outing on October 10, 4:00 p.m., at Kregel's Pumpkin Patch in Crown Point. The admission is \$6 and some sort of art supplies. (crayons, glue sticks, watercolor paints/brushes, construction paper, etc). We will be donating the art supplies to a day care center. A flyer will be passed out in church school with more information. Please contact Kristina Taylor (email: taylormon26@sbcglobal.net) or Tina Simic to reserve a place at the outing.

G.O.A.L Basketball 2009-2010

The season is just around the corner, starting in October! There is still time to join the rosters for our 2009-2010 basketball teams. While we will be having a grade-school boys team, the High School boys and the Women's teams require additional players to qualify. All interested persons should contact Athletic Director Sam Vlamis in person or by email: samvlamis@ameritech.net.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Coming Up Sunday, October 4, 2009: **Cancer Resource Centre Walk & Fun Run** at Munster Community Park. Philoptochos members and guests are invited to join our team as we walk to benefit this local support center. The Resource Center makes available free of charge information on the latest cancer treatment options and offers support groups and relaxation therapies at their beautiful new facility in Munster. Sponsor forms are available after church services on Sundays or contact chairman **Linda Katsinis** for more information.

A special review of our exciting "An Evening in Paris" Style Show will be included in the October *Transformations*.

PARISH ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 28

Our Fall Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. In addition to our 2010 Budget, the Parish Council will be proposing significant changes to our Parish By-laws. A full explanation of these and the agenda of the assembly will be forthcoming in the next issue of *Transformations*.

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

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stdemhammond@sbcglobal.net
tyarovsky@sbcglobal.net
