

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARIAN: SPOTLIGHT ON MR. JAMES BARKAS

In 1909, a stamp costs two cents, Pittsburgh wins the World Series, the United States issues the first Lincoln penny, and William Taft is the 27th President of the United States. ...and on September 15th, on the island of Kalamos, James Barkas is born! While living in Greece, Mr. Barkas worked on various Greek shipping lines, including that of the Onassis Family. He immigrated to America in 1950 and worked at Inland Steel. Mr. Barkas resides in Calumet City with his son Dennis.

On Sunday, September 20th, Mr. Barkas' Saint Demetrios Family honored its first centenarian at a luncheon. Everyone wishes him a Happy Birthday and a year of happiness and good health!



SAINT DEMETRIOS CELEBRATION

Please join your Saint Demetrios Family for **brunch** celebrating our Patron Saint on Sunday, October 25th in the Mediterranean Room immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The menu includes eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, fruit, beef, ham, and much more! Tickets (Adults \$20.00 and Children under 10 Free) are to be purchased in advance and will be available after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 11th and 18th. Enjoy a lovely meal and fellowship before returning for Vespers in the evening.



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And More!!!



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

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

RECYCLING FOR DOLLARS AT SAINT DEMETRIOS

Paper recycling has arrived at Saint Demetrios! Please save all of your papers – including newspapers, office papers, junk mail, etc. (No cardboard, please!) Be sure to tell your family, friends and neighbors we want all of their papers, too! Just drop off your donations in the yellow and green bin at the end of the St. Demetrios parking lot as often as you can, and we will be paid for our recycling collection. Help the Church raise funds to support needy members of our community, and keep our earth green at the same time!



POP TABS FOR CHARITY

The Saint Demetrios Church School is collecting pop tabs to assist the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. Save your pop tabs and bring them to Church School classrooms or to the collection jars in the Church School office. Upon submitting the tabs, RMHC receives the going rate for scrap metal *and* a charitable match. Last year alone, RMHC collected over \$40,000 from this program. Start saving those tabs...!



IN MEMORY

William “Bill” Marianes, former Saint Demetrios parishioner and Parish Council Member, passed away on September 13th in Atlanta, Georgia. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Bessie, and his daughter Connie (Frank), son William (Audrey) and granddaughters Alexis and Leah. May his memory be eternal.

FALL FEST

Mark your calendars and tell your friends about our Fall Fest on Saturday, November 21st. Pastries, chili, and more will be available. More details will be announced in the November issue of *Transformations* and in the *Parish Weekly*.



Special Note: We are trying something new! Our Fall Fest will be followed by a “Mardi Gras” Food Fest open to the public this winter in lieu of our normal *Apokreatiko* Dinner Dance (which would fall on Super Bowl Sunday this year). At *that* event, we will be serving dinners and other treats as we have in previous years at the Fall Fest.



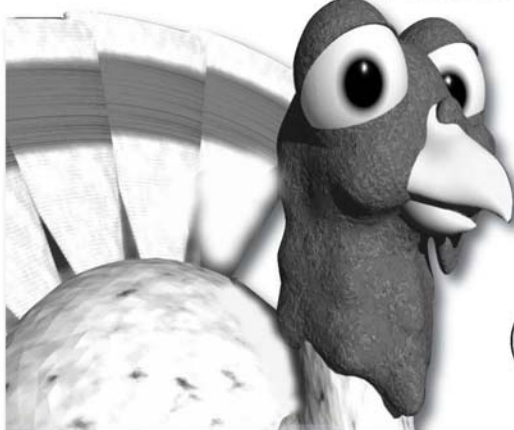
BREAKFAST / CEREAL DRIVE A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who participated in the Breakfast/Cereal Food Drive! Our pantry shelves are stocked from top to bottom, and we’re ready to deliver our collection to the food pantries of Greater Hammond Community Services and Northwest Family Child Development Center.

CALLING ALL SENIORS! COME TO DINNER!

Mark your calendars for our annual Senior Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 7th at 6:00 pm in the Mediterranean Room. More details to follow!

Help feed the needy in our community by making a monetary donation toward the



GREAT GOBBLER GIVEAWAY

Sundays, Oct. 18 - Nov. 22

Please see Paul Coulis after church services to make your contribution toward the purchase of turkeys to feed families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Help complete

THE HOLIDAY TABLE

Bring canned goods/non-perishable food items
to Church or Church School from

Oct. 18 ~ Nov. 22



The following items are greatly appreciated:

- ☛ boxed stuffing
- ☛ corn bread mix
- ☛ canned or jar gravy
- ☛ canned broth
- ☛ canned yams
- ☛ canned green beans
- ☛ canned sweet potatoes
- ☛ canned corn
- ☛ boxed mashed potatoes
- ☛ canned carrots
- ☛ rice mixes
- ☛ coffee
- ☛ canned cranberry sauce
- ☛ juice

Parish Website: www.stdemetriushammond.org
 Parish Email: stdemhammond@sbcglobal.net
 Article Submissions: tyarovsky@sbcglobal.net

(submissions by the 15th of
each month)

OUR SAINT DEMETRIOS PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT

Evening In Paris – A Night to Remember!



On Thursday, September 10, we hosted our annual style show at Andorra Banquets in Schererville, IN. Guests dined by candlelight and roses, and they enjoyed a four course, French-inspired dinner. They were treated to fashions modeled by twenty women and men from our church community. The women modeled casual clothing from PJ's of Crown Point and Harley-Davidson of Munster, and evening wear by Ms. Elle's in Highland. The men sported casual apparel courtesy of Harley-Davidson of Munster and formalwear by Dunhill Tuxedos of Highland. Despite the difficult economic conditions in our region, the style show committee was very pleased with

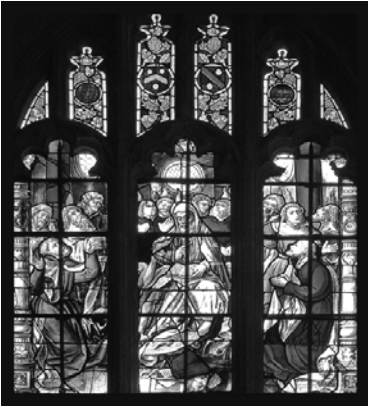
the support given by our church and the business community. Show attendees generously participated in our largest-ever prize raffle, our cash raffle, and our first silent purse auction. We extend our thanks to our fashion show models, who in addition to making time for clothes fittings and show practices, entertained and delighted our guests with their own personal style and enthusiasm. On behalf of chairman **Kristine Stamos** and her hardworking committee, we thank everyone for making our 2009 style show a success. We look forward to seeing you at our show next year at Dynasty Banquets.



Philoptochos Sunday: On Sunday, November 1, we will host a Continental Breakfast during fellowship hour in observance of the feast day of Saints Cosmas and Damian, patron saints of the National Ladies Philoptochos Society. The day will also mark the kick-off of our 2010 membership drive. We welcome and encourage women over the age of 18 to join us for a new year of service and philanthropy to our church and the greater community. Men are also welcome and encouraged to become associate members!

Please stop by our booth to renew or begin your membership and to ask any questions regarding our activities. With the exception of the Philoptochos Board, it is not required that general members attend all monthly meetings. The support and encouragement of our members is our most important asset, so please help make this our best year ever and share in our success!

Inside Saint Demetrios: Study the Stained Glass Windows – Part 2



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 south aisle windows from west to east:

Pentecost – Before His Ascension, Jesus promised that he would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to bless and strength His Apostles in their mission to preach salvation to all mankind. The window scene shows the Virgin Mary, Saint Peter and Saint John on the fiftieth day following the Resurrection of Jesus. The small scene beneath shows boys of various nationalities, symbolizing the universality of the Christian Church.

Christ the Teacher – Jesus is shown as He preached the beatitudes on the Sermon on the Mount. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:3-11). The XP in the small window below are the initials for Christ. The cross is the center of Salvation.

Christ the King – Jesus is shown holding the world in His hands, and those who believe in Him acknowledge Him as King and ruler of all. The family scene, worshipping at the Holy Altar in the small window below, is symbolic of allegiance to Christ, the King, as the family joins together in prayer and worship.

Christ the Judge – Jesus is shown seated on the Judgment throne, judging each person according to his deeds. “When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all His angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne” (Matthew 23:31). The small window beneath this scene shows the repentant sinner, Mary Magdalene, forgiven of her sins.

Christ the Lamb of God – Jesus is shown as the Good Shepherd who came to seek and save the lost. “I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11). The figure below is symbolic of the two natures of Christ, the Human and the Divine.

Christ the Light of the World – In this scene, Jesus is shown holding a lamp, symbolizing that all who believe in Him shall not live in darkness but shall have the light of life. “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). The initials of Jesus Christ, IXC, encircled by flames, symbolize the word of Jesus shall spread throughout the world.



The Wedding Feast of Cana – At the wedding feast, Jesus performed his first miracle by changing water into wine, thus instituting the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Beneath this scene is the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the last miracle which Jesus performed.

Jesus and the Little Children – This scene shows the love Jesus has for all children and recalls His words: “Let the children come to me and do not hinder them” (Matthew 19:14). Beneath this scene, Jesus is depicted as the Lamb of God.

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Saint Demetrios Fall Parish Assembly

Wednesday, October 28, 2009
7:00 p.m.



On **Wednesday, October 28**, our Saint Demetrios Church will hold its Fall General Assembly. This is a chance for us to plan for the coming year. We need every member of our community to make the effort to spend just a little time with us so that our community can move forward.

General Assembly Agenda

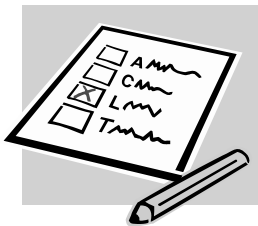
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order and Invocation 2. Verification of Quorum 3. Election of the Chairman of the General Assembly 4. Reading of the Minutes (May 27, 2009) 5. Reports of the Pastor and the Parish Council President 6. Report on the Treasury of the Parish 7. <u>New Business:</u>
Parish By-Law Amendment Proposals | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. <u>Other New Business</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a.) Deliberation and Approval of the 2010 Parish Budget b.) Election of member (1) of the Board of Auditors c.) Recognition of Outgoing Members of the Parish Council d.) Nominations for Parish Council Elections 9. Benediction and Closing of the General Assembly |
|--|---|

Voting and Assembly Participation

To vote and participate in the Parish General Assembly (and the elections for Parish Council), persons must be members in good canonical and financial standing with the parish. For financial good standing, parishioners **must have paid in full their pledged commitment from the previous year (2008) and be 75% paid for the current year**. New members in good canonical standing must have pledged no later than three (3) months prior to the Assembly or Election.

Parishioners may meet their obligations any time prior to, or on the day of, the Parish Assembly or of Elections with the assistance of our Stewardship Pledge Coordinators, Mr. John & Dr. Pella Chioros. For questions and information regarding your standing in the parish, please contact the Parish Office or Father David.

Parish Council Elections, 2009



and life of the Parish with ongoing council members and Father David.

It is that time of year again! It is time to select new members of the Parish Council for a two-year term of office. We will be in need of seven (7) parishioners in good standing to help guide the direction of our community

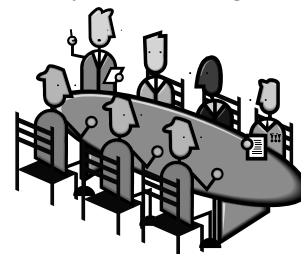
Service on the Parish Council is a special ministry of the Church, by the Church, and for the Church. The Parish Council is responsible with the Parish Priest to our Metropolitan Iakovos for the administration of the parish. The purpose of the Parish Council is to enable and facilitate our Parish ministry. The goal of the Parish Council is to inspire all the faithful to support their parish in proper stewardship (time, talent & treasure), to serve as model parishioners, to make parish decisions for the benefit of all, and to plan the best

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course for the administration of the community now and for our future as a parish family.

Too often, we do not consider serving on the Parish Council because of our physical inability to do certain things. Too often we hear, "I can't do all that!" Yet the Parish Council members are not primarily the persons who are supposed to "do everything" for us, but to

enable all of us to accomplish all that needs to be done. Parish Council members are already volunteering their time and their talents in a particular way: to deliberate and think and develop ideas for the health and welfare of our parish. They serve by leading others to service.



Nominations opened on Sunday, October 3, 2006. Nominations will be formally closed at the Fall Parish Assembly (October 28). Requirements for service on the Parish Council are posted as well and are as follows:

1. Baptized or chrismated in the Orthodox Church (marriage to an Orthodox spouse does not qualify of itself).
2. 18 years of age or older by date of formal nomination (by Nov. 15, 2009)
3. Lives according to the faith and canons of the Church. (Has no canonical impediment and is in communion with the Church).
4. Has met financial obligation to the parish for the current and previous year.
5. Applies the tenets of the Orthodox faith to his/her life and activities.
6. Attends the Divine Liturgy and other services of worship faithfully on Sundays and holy days.
7. Keeps the fasts of the Orthodox tradition.
8. Receives frequently the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion.
9. Respects the clergy, the ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church.
10. Is obedient in matters of faith and ecclesiastical order.
11. Cooperates in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission.
12. Is a member of the Parish for at least one year prior to date of elections (since Nov. 20, 2004).
13. Attends required seminar conducted by the parish priest (see box below)
14. Signs written statement noting understanding of the Uniform Parish Regulations and will abide by the oath of office.

The typical manner of nominations set forth by the parish by-laws is that nominees attach their names to a public list displayed (across from the Bookstore) from the first Sunday of October (Oct. 3) to the final Sunday of October (Oct. 25). Following the ***Parish Leadership Seminar*** required of all candidates (see box at right), the Board of Elections will determine eligible candidates for formal nomination at the General Assembly. **Additional persons may be nominated at the General Assembly in theory, but they must have attended the required seminar by that time to be eligible.** If nominated at the assembly in addition to previously signed-in nominees, the Board of Elections will determine eligibility for inclusion on the ballot following the assembly. If eligible, they must be included according to the Uniform Parish Regulations. Questions regarding eligibility can be brought to Father David.

The 2009 Parish Council elections will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2009**

Parish Leadership Seminar

(required for Parish Council nominees)

Saturday, Oct. 17, 3:00 p.m.

OR

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m.

The seminar, open to all, will cover not only matters of **parish governance**, by-laws and so forth, but also a discussion of **Orthodox principles for parish ministry and management**. Excellent for all parish leaders or those desiring to be more active in parish ministry! **Contact the Church Office by Monday, October 29**, if you plan to attend either night so materials can be prepared for you!

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PARISH BY-LAWS PROPOSED CHANGES

The Parish Council is recommending a change to our Parish By-laws. These two (2) proposals are discussed below. Please note that our present By-laws govern this process according to the following:

Part F. Amendment and Effective Date of Parish By-Laws: Article 1

These Parish By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special Parish Assembly following written notice mailed to each member in good standing at least ten (10) days prior to the assembly date, setting forth the article(s) which are proposed to be amended. Only those articles which are set forth in the assembly notice may be amended at the respective Parish Assembly.

Proposal # 1

The first proposal is for a reduction in the size of the Parish Council from fifteen (15) elected members to eleven (11) over the course of two years (2011 and 2012). This will **only affect the size of the Parish Council, not any of its responsibilities or duties**. Because the By-law will not be adopted and ratified before this year' elections, we will continue to have 15 members in 2010.

Current Text, Part B, Article 1.

The officers of the Parish Council shall be a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. The Parish Council shall be comprised of fifteen (15) lay members, including the Officers. The Officers of the Parish Council shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be re-elected as an Officer during their term as a Parish Council member.

Proposed Change (both paragraphs added, replacing the above paragraph):

[The following paragraph shall act as the paragraph under Part B, Article 1 solely for the year 2011] The officers of the Parish Council shall be a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. The Parish Council shall be comprised of thirteen (13) lay members, including the Officers. The Officers of the Parish Council shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be re-elected as an Officer during their term as a Parish Council member.

[The following paragraph shall act as the paragraph under Part B, Article 1 for the year 2012 and all years thereafter] The officers of the Parish Council shall be a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. The Parish Council shall be comprised of eleven (11) lay members, including the Officers. The Officers of the Parish Council shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be re-elected as an Officer during their term as a Parish Council member.

Proposal # 2

The second proposal will change how we nominate candidates to the Parish Council and create a nominating committee comprised of five (5) persons. Two (2) members will be appointed from the sitting Parish Council and three (3) parishioners chosen by the May Parish Assembly of each year (prior to elections) to form the committee. However, as at present, **anyone wishing to be a candidate for election to the Parish Council will continue to be able to do so** as now. The

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purpose of the Nominations Committee will only be to seek out qualified candidates to ensure a sufficient number to fill vacancies in our elections.



Current Texts:

Part C: Elections of the Parish Council

Article 1

4. The Board of Elections shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous location immediately following liturgical services on the first Sunday of October, a notice stating the date, location, and hours during which election shall be held and the requisite qualification of candidates, the number of vacancies to be filled, together with a list on which candidates may affix their signatures.
5. Candidates for election may affix their signatures on the posted list until 1:00 p.m. of the last Sunday of October, provided their current Parish financial commitment is paid on or before this date, and they have met all other qualifications. At this time the list shall be removed by the chairperson of the Board of Elections.
6. The list of candidates shall then be checked by the Board of Elections and the Parish Priest for eligibility of each candidate and a revised list of all qualified candidates names, in English alphabetical order, with Greek names along side, shall be prepared by the Board of Elections.
7. The list of qualified candidates shall be posted by the Board of Elections in a conspicuous location not less than one (1) week prior to the elections. A notice stating the time and place of the elections shall be mailed not less than two (2) weeks before the elections to all those entitled to vote.
8. The Board of Elections shall prepare ballots listing the candidate names according to English alphabetical order with Greek names along side, and given instructions regarding the maximum number of candidates' names to be marked.

Proposed Change:

Part C: Elections of the Parish Council

Article 1

4. The Board of Elections shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous location immediately following liturgical services on the last Sunday of September, a notice stating the date, location, and hours during which election shall be held and the requisite qualification of candidates, the number of vacancies to be filled, as well as blank nomination forms obtained from the Nominating Committee.
5. No member in good standing will be prohibiting from submitting a nomination form. Potential Candidates for election must complete and submit nomination forms to the Nominating Committee, the Parish Office, or the Parish Priest by 1:00 p.m. of the last Sunday of October, provided their current Parish financial commitment is paid on or before this date, and they have met all other qualifications. At this time the Nominating Committee will deliver all submitted nomination forms to the chairperson of the Board of Elections. At the November Assembly the chairperson of the Board of Elections shall announce the list of qualified candidates to date, and the Chairman of the November Assembly shall formally close the nominations after parishioners attending the November Assembly have been given the opportunity to make additional nominations.
6. The list of candidates together with any candidates nominated at the November Assembly shall be checked by the Board of Elections and the Parish Priest for eligibility of each candidate and a revised list of all qualified candidates names, in English alphabetical order shall be prepared by the Board of Elections. All nominees will be informed by the Parish Priest as to the validity of their qualifications and their inclusion or exclusion on the ballot for Parish Council elections.

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7. The list of qualified candidates shall be posted by the Board of Elections in a conspicuous location not less than one (1) week prior to the elections and announced at the November Assembly. A notice stating the time and place of the elections shall be mailed not less than two (2) weeks before the elections to all those entitled to vote.

8. The Board of Elections shall prepare ballots listing the candidate names according to English alphabetical order, and given instructions regarding the maximum number of candidates names to be marked.

Proposed Addition:

Part C: Elections of the Parish Council

Article 3

1. The Nominating Committee of the Parish shall consist of five (5) lay members, who shall have one year terms, together with the Parish Priest as an *ex officio* member. Two (2) members will be appointed by the Parish Council from its lay members by each May Assembly. Three (3) members in good standing will be selected by the Parish Assembly at each May Assembly. The Nominating Committee will then seek out candidates for the election of the Parish Council members. Members of the Nominating Committee remain eligible for nomination as a candidate for the Parish Council. No salaried employee of the Parish shall be permitted to serve on the Nominating Committee.

2. The goal of the Nominating Committee is to encourage parishioners to complete and submit nomination forms before every election of the Parish Council members so that such elections are competitive with more qualified candidates than vacancies.

SO WHY THE CHANGES?

Some may find these proposals controversial, for they reflect changes from long-standing customs. Both arise from our past experience and future expectations, and are part of a vision of our future, a strategic plan. We are in process in developing a strategic, long-range plan for the parish. This is something that has not occurred here for a long time, if ever.

Part of the plan is to become more efficient in how we do things at Saint Demetrios. Part of the plan is to get more persons involved in what we are doing at Saint Demetrios. Part of the plan is to get more parishioners at Saint Demetrios. And the two proposals to change our by-laws are two parts of that plan.

Certainly, changing the by-laws will not *solve* any problems we have. What will change is *how* we do things at the parish, and this will—in a small but meaningful way—help us get on course to fulfill our mission as a parish: for each of us to grow in Christ, and for us to gain new members for the Church (the Great Commission: Matthew

28). In fact, the Parish Council has *already* changed the way we do things at Saint Demetrios, and is only trying to build on these changes we have already adopted.

Proposal 2: Nominations

Changing our nomination process is far easier to explain: the current sign-up sheet has not been very effective lately. It is also inhibiting to persons who may not offer their name if they see we already have enough (nobody want to lose an election), or may not know if they will be considered qualified (nobody wants to be disqualified after publicly volunteering). Filling out a form is not much different (anyone who wants to be nominated will still be nominated), but it may alleviate the problems with the (public) list.

The Nominations Committee is another good idea, to ensure we have qualified, skilled, and numerous candidates. Committee members from the Parish Council (2) will have experience in what the duties are; members chosen from the Parish

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Assembly ensures that the current Parish Council not dominate the process.

Proposal 1: Size of the Parish Council

Reducing the number of Parish Council members overall is perhaps harder to explain. First, none of the actual responsibilities and duties of the Parish Council will or can change—these are defined by Archdiocesan Regulations and Parish By-laws. Second, it will hopefully bring more efficiency to the *way* the Parish Council operates. Third, it is not a statement about the current or previous Parish Council who have served us so well in the past. Fourth, it is completely unrelated to the size of our parish (there is no requirement in this regard).

So why eleven? We have to have six (6) officers. We have now, and will need, a Liaison with our Outreach Ministries Committee to assist in the oversight function of the Parish Council, to communicate ideas between the Parish Council and our Outreach Committee, and to report back our ministry needs at council meetings. We have four areas for which we will have committees: Administration & Planning, Building & Grounds, Finance & Budget, Membership & Stewardship. A chairperson for each committee accounts for a total of eleven “positions” and responsibilities for our council members. Additional council members *could* serve on committees, but that will not be necessary (and why have unnecessary members?).

The idea is to form our committees with interested, talented and skilled parishioners in each of these areas (we’re beginning to do this again anyway). This will promote involvement, a wider “pool” of parishioner resources (talents and skills), interest in our administrative needs, and familiarity with the process...leading to more future candidates on the Parish Council.



Indeed, in the Bible (Acts ch. 6) we know that administration of the Church is vitally important. But the purpose of administration is to make ministry possible and grow. When the Holy Apostles were faced with administrative problems, they appointed the first seven deacons of the Church—but there were twelve (12) apostles who were actively engaged in ministry! Ministry is the priority. Currently at Saint Demetrios we actually have more “administrators” than ministry leaders. If we are to be a successful parish in the future, this ratio needs to be reversed.

So the purpose of these proposals is essentially to make the Parish Council more efficient and effective, while making it easier for us to find enough volunteers for this sacred service to the Church as we begin to set the foundation for a bright and successful future of our Saint Demetrios Church.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE PROGRAM, 2010

On Sunday, October 4, we began distributing our 2010 Stewardship Pledge Forms. We thank all who returned them on that day, and look forward to receiving the remainder in the near future.

If you have not obtained one in the mail, please contact our Parish Office to have one mailed, get one in the Narthex or from a Parish Council member on Sundays, or pledge online at our website.

Remember: all we ask at this time is that you pledge. There are no dues. There is no minimum. The only requirement is you give from the heart.

You can pay your commitment later, in easy installments over the course of the year. In any event, we thank you!