



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church  
400 Skyway Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93010

---

**2008 Status Report**

*Prepared upon request of the Holy Metropolis of San Francisco  
Humbly submitted by  
Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriacou, pastor  
Mr. George Joannou, Parish Council President 2006-present*

## **1. Goals of the Parish:**

- a. As Priest of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, since August of 2004, I have come up with goals to work by. These are ever evolving objectives, but a way to maintain focus. They are in no particular order:
  - i. To imitate Christ's selflessness and to follow His command to, "Love the Lord God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And to love your neighbor as yourself."
  - ii. To share the truth of the Orthodox Christian Church and to bring others to Christ.
  - iii. To minister to the sick and less fortunate.
  - iv. To grow in faith: through personal prayer, community worship, and through the study of Holy Scripture.
  - v. Youth Ministry: to provide programs that develop knowledge of our Faith (Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition).
  - vi. To present a good example of servant leadership.

## **2. Liturgical**

- a. Sacraments
  - i. Liturgies Celebrated
    - All major Feast Days of our Lord
    - All Feast Days of the Holy Virgin Theotokos
    - All Major Feast Days of Saint
    - Pre-Sanctified Liturgies during Great Lent
  - ii. 2008 Weddings – (3) Three
  - iii. 2008 Baptisms (includes Christmations) – (5) Five
  - iv. 2008 Christmations (Adults entering the Orthodox Faith) – (1) One
- b. Services
  - i. 2008 Funerals – (4) Four
  - ii. Other
    - Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday of Forgiveness
    - Akathist on Fridays in Lent
    - Holy Unction periodically throughout the year
    - Confessions heard upon request
    - Paraklesis during the 15 days of August

### 3. Parish Administration

#### a. Front Office

- i. The Parish of St. Demetrios has two part-time employees. They are a front office receptionist/secretary and the other a bookkeeper.
  - Our receptionist worked for our Parish from September of 2004- through the first week of February 2008. In February 2008 the Front office position was vacated (resigned due to personal issues). In April 2008 the position was permanently filled. Assists Fr. Gary with administrative duties and is responsible for the day to day actions of the front office. A job description can be provided if desired.
  - In January 2008 the Parish Council hired a bookkeeper to maintain our financial records. Bookkeeper works 10-12 hours per week performing tasks relevant to financial matters.

#### b. 2008 Parish Council

- i. George Joannou – President, Parish Council
- ii. Bruce Wilson – Vice President, Parish Council
- iii. Bill Leonard – Treasurer, Parish Council
- iv. Frank Gankas – Secretary, Parish Council
- v. Kostas Defterios- Parish Council
- vi. Deb Greanias- Parish Council
- vii. Scott McBryde- Parish Council
- viii. Danka Schmidt- Parish Council
- ix. Susan Valle- Parish Council

#### c. Community Groups

- i. **AHEPA #220** – Frank Gankas
  - Meet regularly for fellowship and dinner on the last Monday of each month
  - Goals are to raise funds for Student Scholarships
- ii. **ACOLYTE SERVERS DIRECTOR** – Bruce Wilson
  - Young men Grades 2-12 are encouraged to participate
  - Currently our Parish rotates 4 teams of 7 young men
  - Meetings are held quarterly: maintenance and procedures discussed
- iii. **BOY SCOUT TROOP #808** – Lou Leopold
  - Open to the entire community at large
  - Meet every Wednesday evening
- iv. **BUDGET COMMITTEE** – Lyle Hochberger
  - Collects data for Parish budget

- Meetings begin during August and continue until the Fall Assembly
- v. **By Laws COMMITTEE** – Lyle Hochberger
  - Meet when necessary to amend or add By-Laws for Parish Assembly approval
- vi. **CHOIR**– Chris Pulos
  - Rehearse every Tuesday evening
- vii. **DANCE GROUPS** – Anastasia Magoulas- Omonia (High School)
  - Pres. Christie Kyriacou Thavmatakia (Elementary)
  - Rehearse every Monday evening
- viii. **DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE, HYPERIA #94** – Barbara Kokkinis
  - Meet one Wednesday each month
  - Goals are to raise funds for Student Scholarships
- ix. **FESTIVAL COMMITTEE** – Christo Pulos
  - Executes our Annual Greek Festival (2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend in June each year)
- x. **GREEK SCHOOL DIRECTOR** – Nikos Padelidis
  - Currently re-organizing this ministry
  - In 2008 met on Saturdays
- xi. **Proj. Development and Implementation Committee** – Keith Valle
  - Meets once a month (more often if necessary)
  - Goal is to communicate with Architect and Contractors on behalf of the Community regarding our expansion project
- xii. **Philoptochos** – Susan Valle
  - Meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month
  - Actively engage in the mission defined by our Holy Archdiocese
- xiii. **LONG RANGE PLANNING & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT** – Christo Pulos
  - This committee is developing a 5, 10 and 20 year plan
- xiv. **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** – Ted Metropoulos
  - Sets the financial goal for the community
  - Maintains parishioner pledges throughout the year
- xv. **SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR** – Cynthia Coler
  - Organizes the Religious development of our Student with the volunteer teachers of our community
- xvi. **VIP's/SENIORS** – Cally Pantages
  - The group meets once a month for lunch and fellowship.
  - Generally meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month
- xvii. **Website Design and Maintenance** – Michael Panesis
  - Michael posts items on our web site and continues to update the information on our site ([www.saintdem.org](http://www.saintdem.org))

#### **4. Evangelism , Outreach and Expansion**

##### **a. Ventura County Rescue Mission**

- i. Beginning in the Fall of 2008 our Parish developed a working relationship with the Ventura County Rescue Mission ([www.erescuemission.org](http://www.erescuemission.org))
  - Commitment includes cooking, serving, cleaning for over 300 homeless in our county on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month
  - In 2008 we participated in October, November and December
    - a. We are committed to this task.
    - b. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer and if they are not physically capable of doing so, asked to make a donation to cover the cost of food
- ii. Fun Run for Food Share
  - Each year, on the Saturday morning of our Annual Greek Festival we host a 5K/10K race. The entrance fees and other proceeds from this event go directly to the Ventura County Food Share program

##### **b. O-YEA: Orthodox Youth Engaging in Activity**

- i. Meet once every 6 weeks to participate in physical activity and a family picnic.
  - Events include Scavenger Hunts, Kickball, etc.
- ii. Led by Young Adults in the our Community: Mr. and Mrs. John Gonzales

##### **c. Bible Study**

- i. Meets weekly on Tuesday nights throughout the year, except during Lent. During lent the group meets on Wednesdays following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.
- ii. Topics for 2008 included Old Testament Figures and a Journey Through the Old Testament.
- iii. This group is open to all parishioners.

##### **d. Senior Dance**

- i. The Senior Citizens of our community gather on the first and Second Mondays of each month (except during Lent) to Greek Dance together.
- ii. Snacks and refreshments are served and the event is open to all (i.e. not exclusive to St. Demetrios Parishioners)- thus making the event a general community event.

**e. Building progress**

- i. We are engaged with Gary Heathcote and Associates in creating a master plan for our future Parish Campus
  - 3 Buildings in development
    - a. Church
    - b. Parish Hall
    - c. Administration/Classroom/Chapel building
- ii. In April of 2004 the Parish approved the purchase of land on the corners of Santa Rosa and Woodcreek Roads in Camarillo, CA.
- iii. Loan was paid in May 2008

**5. Fundraisers**

- a. **Building Fund:** the following events are held to help pay the costs associated with our Building Project:
  - i. Greek Festival – June 6, 7, and 8, 2008
  - ii. Golf Tournament – Monday, September 15, 2008
  - iii. Feast Day Dinner Dance Celebration – not held in 2008
- b. **General Operating Fund:** the following events are held to help pay the costs associated with our Operating Expenses:
  - i. Agape (Easter) Picnic – Sunday, April 27 2008
  - ii. Epiphany Celebration – Sunday, January 6, 2008

**6. Noteworthy Events of 2008**

**a. Altar Guild Ministry**

- i. A new ministry was developed to help encourage liturgical participation by the young women in our Parish, ages 9-17.
  - Duties include reading the Epistle and Communion Prayers, maintenance of ecclesiastical items (communion cloths, etc), baking prosforo and making koliva for memorials.

**b. YES Campaign**

- i. A volunteer program was established in the Fall to encourage volunteer participation amongst our Parishioners.
  - We asked our Parishioners to, “Say YES!” when the Church calls to ask for assistance.
  - Taking this ministry one step forward we asked members to commit to offering 100 hours of help throughout the year. Those that signed up were given a button to wear indicating that they have said, “YES!”

**c. Myrrh-Bearer Monthly Newsletter**

- i. In an effort to cut costs, our Newsletter is exclusively available on our web site and is not mailed to EVERY household. A copy is still sent to those that do not have computers.

**7. Economic Shortfalls of 2008**

The declining economy has had a direct effect on our Parish.

- i. General Operating Fund
  - Deficit of \$32,000
  - Special collection taken from September – October to remedy this issue
- ii. Annual Feast Day Dinner Dance Celebration was cancelled
  - Lack of reservations kept us from hosting this year's event
- iii. All major fundraisers were impacted this year as we did not raise as much as prior years.