

April 16, 2013

Dear Parishioner/Parent,

The Church of St Demetrios has matured and is now over fifty years old. With the passage of time changes are inevitable. Each day we attempt to serve our faithful to the best of our ability. We are seeking your assistance in planning improvements to our Youth Ministry programs for the foreseeable future. Specifically, we would like to find out the days and times of the week that are most convenient for you and your family to participate in these programs. We realize that there are many time constraints on all of us, students, parents and teachers/mentors and we want to be respectful of everyone's time. In addition, we are cognizant that participation in all programs, be they at our schools or at our church, is a matter of priorities.

Please take the time to read through this short survey and return it to us as soon as possible. We will then review the results and share them with you, thus preparing ourselves over the summer to offer the best possible program during the academic year 2013-14.

Sincerely,

Father Christopher Metropulos

Mantha Mehallis, EYCC Chair

YOUTH MINISTRIES SURVEY

1. Family Sunday

This year we took one Sunday per month and did not have any youth programs, only our Adult Class. We did this in order to afford the families of our parish the opportunity to come to worship together and then have the day to be with one another.

A. Did you find this advantageous to your family's spiritual development?

Yes ____ No ____

B. Did you attend the Church services on Family Sunday? Yes ____ No ____

2. Sunday School

Our teachers are prepared every Sunday to instruct your children in the faith. It is important that you arrive on time with them for worship so they may also come to Sunday School to learn about our sacred beliefs.

A. Is there another day of the week that would be more convenient for you to bring your children to church for religious instruction? Yes _____ No _____

B. If your answer is Yes,, please provide the day and time of your preference:

Day _____ Time _____

3. Language and Culture Program

We have been offering a Greek School Program for many years. As you are aware, over time, the administration and methods of teaching have undergone many changes. From its inception until two years ago, the children met with their teacher every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. In the early years of the School's operation, the children could follow the lessons successfully primarily due to the fact that Greek was spoken in many homes. Now we must face the fact that Greek is not spoken in most homes of our community, if at all, and we have an inter-Christian marriage rate of over 98%.

Two years ago, we began to offer our Language and Culture Class on Sunday. We made this change assuming that if the family came for worship on Sunday, it would make it easier for the children to stay a bit longer and learn about their heritage. Over one hundred students, children and adults, enrolled and the program for the past two years has been actually performing quite well in the fall and winter months. This year we offered eight classes and had twelve teachers and six student assistants who instructed at no cost to the parish. A true outreach of love and respect for our heritage and culture and tremendous effort on behalf of our teachers. It appears to us, however, that this schedule may be too taxing for some parents and children due to time constraints on Sundays.

We are, therefore, as an alternative, proposing to offer the Greek Language and Culture Class as an online course for those who are really interested in learning the language rather than for everyone on Sunday. They will interact with their instructor online, meet once a month as a group face-to-face at church, and, from time to time, they will make presentations to the Church on major feast days. We will be using the well known and successful Rosetta Stone Greek Language program with an administrator working with the children who will learn the language at a cost per student to be negotiated by our church with the Rosetta Stone.

A. Do you want to continue with the same schedule that we have now with Language and Culture Class offered at the Church each Sunday? Yes ____ No ____

B. If you answered No, would you be interested to enroll your child in an online Language Learning program that has an annual tuition of approximately \$350 - 400?
(This will be the only format of Greek School that our community will offer this coming year, if this option is chosen by the majority of our parents.)
Yes ____ No ____

C. If you answered Yes to the online learning option , please indicate the day and time below that is most convenient for you to bring your children to the once a month on site class at St. Demetrios: (This will be the only format of Greek School that our community will offer this coming year, if this option is chosen by the majority of our parents.)

(1) Sunday after church services _____

(2) Monday afternoon _____

D. Would you and/or your children participate in Greek culture/history classes?

Yes, I would ____ Yes, my children would ____ No ____

Preferred day: Friday evening ____ Saturday morning ____ Other day ____

4. GOYA

Our ministry program for young teens ages 13-18 meets on a monthly basis. Please indicate below how many children you have in your household of GOYA age for 2013-14 and what day of the week and time of day would be best:

A. Number of children between 13 and 18 yrs old in my household _____

B. Day and time of the week most convenient to attend monthly meetings:

Day _____ Time _____

5. Dance

Our dance program taught by volunteer parishioners is one of the finest around. Please indicate how many children you have that would want to attend this class and which day of the week is best for you to bring them to the program: (Sept. until the end of the Festival)

A. Number of children _____

B. Sunday 1:00 -2:00 pm _____ Monday evening _____

C. If you have children in different age groups, would you rather they all practice on Sunday or split them up on Sunday and Monday?

All on Sunday _____ Split between Sunday and Monday _____

6. Possible New Sunday Schedule

9:00 Orthros

10:00 Adult Study Class

11:15 Sunday School

12:30 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Dance. Instruction (Sept through the time of the Festival)

A. Is the above schedule something you and your family can commit to enrolling in September for next year's programs? Yes _____ No _____

If your answer is No, what program schedule would you like to see? Please be specific:

7. Parent Volunteers

As in all programs, both at school and at church, the involvement of parents is critical. Please indicate how many hours per month you wish to volunteer and in which program you want to be active so that we might plan better our programs for next year.

Youth Ministry Program _____

Hours per month that I and my family will volunteer _____

I would like to become an instructor or an Advisor for _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important document. Please return it either by emailing it or dropping it off at our office by May 5, 2013 (Easter Sunday). Only those surveys signed by parents will be used to formulate our thoughts for next year.

Thank you.

Please sign and date _____