

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church July 2026

Dear St. Demetrius Parishioners and Christmas Baskets Supporters,

Christ is Born! ...in July! Ho, ho, ho!

On Sunday, July 26th, there will be a special coffee hour after Liturgy! The Mission Committee will host a "Christmas in July" fund raising meal to benefit the Christmas Basket Fund. Every year in December, St. Demetrius Church provides a Christmas Basket for families in need in our Jackson community. Each Christmas Basket provides a family with a Christmas meal, which includes a ham, turkey, and all the fixings. The basket also includes household care items, including toothpaste, bathroom tissue paper, dish soap, etc. Also, included are wrapped Christmas presents for the children of the families we are helping.

The recipients of these Christmas Baskets are either vetted by the DHHS, or referred by parishioners of St. Demetrius Church. The value of each basket is approximately \$400. We have been helping 15-20 families each year for over 11 years! Thanks be to God!

In order for us to determine how many families we plan on assisting this year for Christmas 2026, we are having this early fundraiser in anticipation for this annual Mission Committee outreach project.

Please join us for this special lunch in our Fellowship Hall after Liturgy, with a Free Will Offering. All donations will go to the St. Demetrius Mission Fund, memo: Christmas Baskets. If you cannot attend and would like to include this Mission outreach project in your charitable giving, we will appreciate any donations.

Again, donations can be made to: St. Demetrius Mission Fund; memo: Christmas Baskets.

Obviously, every day is like Christmas when you give for the glory of God to help those in need.

Hope to see you! Jingle Bells all the way!

Fr. Dusan Koprivica and the St. Demetrius Church Mission Committee

St. Prokopius the Martyr Feast Day July 8

Theodosia, the fanatical pagan mother of Prokopius, who loathed Christians and anything Christian, did all in her power to raise her son a pagan and she was successful. In his youth, Prokopius was a typical pagan.

Yet, God had other plans for this young man. His daily contact with Christians, from whom he heard many astonishingly beautiful things about Christ and his Apostles, slowly interested him in the faith he up to then had despised. He began to see that the Christians, though lacking beautiful temples embellished with statues and decorous splendor, possessed another kind of beauty not to be found in any other religion or philosophical system. They possessed the truth, indeed, the ultimate truth about God, man, salvation, morals and eternal life.

With the passing of time, he was baptized to live ever after as a very devout Christian. Thus, by the grace of Almighty God, a former typical pagan had now been transformed to an ideal Christian. In fact, this is how Eusebius, a noted church historian and contemporary of Prokopius, described the saint and his martyrdom:

He was a man so filled with divine grace that he had devoted himself to chastity and the practice of all virtues. He had reduced his body until he had given it, so to speak, the appearance of a corpse, but his soul drew from the world of God, so great a vigor that the body itself was refreshed by it.

Meditation on the divine word so filled his being that he remained absorbed in it day and night without fatigue. Filled with goodness and gentleness, regarding himself as the last of men, he edified everyone by his discourses. The word of God was his sole study, and he had but little knowledge of profane science.

Born at Aelia (the pagan name of Jerusalem), he had taken up his residence at Scythopolis (Bethsan). Prokopius was sent with some companions from Scythopolis to Caesarea. He had scarcely passed the city gates when he was conducted into the presence of the governor, and even before he had a taste of the chains or prison walls, he was urged by the judge, Flavian, to sacrifice to the Gods. But he, in a loud voice, proclaimed that there were not several Gods, but one alone, the creator and author of all things.

The answer made a vivid impression on the judge. Finding nothing to say in reply, he tried to persuade Prokopius, at least, to sacrifice to the emperors. This martyr of God spurned his entreaties. "Listen, he said, to the verse of Homer: It is not good to have several masters, let there be one chief, one King." (Iliad 2:204).

At these words, as though he had uttered insults against the emperors, the judge ordered him to be executed. They cut off his head and he passed happily to eternal life on the seventh day in the month of July. This was the first martyrdom that took place at Caesarea.

And so a beautiful soul, that for years served as an ideal example of Christian virtue, through a tragic death, inherited the Kingdom of God's elect in 303 A.D.+

On This Day in St. Demetrius Church History.....

July 1956

Archpriest Photius Donahue, who was the priest of St Andrew Orthodox Church in East Lansing, celebrated St. Demetrius' first Divine Liturgy on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, serving Orthodox Christian families in the Jackson area. This first liturgy took place in rented quarters at Moose Lodge. A Panikhida was sung for the souls of the departed following the liturgy.

July 10, 1983

St. Demetrius Parish was transferred from the Patriarchate of Moscow to the Orthodox Church in America. This process required the parish to hold three votes over several years. The first vote took place in 1979, the second in 1981, and the third in 1983. This final vote required the presence of Bishop Clement of the Russian Patriarchate.

July 10, 1993

Deacon John Demos, who served as deacon at St. Demetrius from 1974-1981, fell asleep in the Lord at 100 years of age.

Sources: stdemetrius.com/about

2026 Sisterhood Bake Sale

Here are the dates for making baklava, zelnic and soup:

Friday & Saturday, September 11th & 12th making baklava at 9 a.m.

Saturday, October 3rd making spinach zelnic at 9 a.m.

Saturday, October 24th making leek & cheese zelnic at 9 a.m.

Sunday, November 8th after church and Monday, November 9th 9 a.m making soup.

The pre-order deadline is Sunday, October 18th.

Bake Sale is Saturday, November 21st.

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July 2026

Services

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Happy 4th of July!</i> No Vespers
5 Liturgy 9:30 am	6	7	8	9	10	11 No Vespers
12 Liturgy 9:30 am. Summer Coffee Hour Potluck. P.C. Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 No Vespers
19 Liturgy 9:30 am	20	21	22	23	24	25 No Vespers
26 Liturgy 9:30 am. Christmas in July Coffee Hour. Fund Raiser for Christmas Baskets.	27	28	29	30	31	