

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church

October 2026

St. Demetrius the Martyr - October 26

St. Demetrius was born in the city of Thessalonica in Asia Minor. His father was the military governor of that city and was a secret believer in Christ. The governor had a special room set aside in his home where he and a few of his very trusted Christian friends would pray in secret.

The governor and his wife were very sad because they had no children, so they prayed to God to grant them a child. Their prayers were answered and they were blessed with a son whom they named Demetrius. The baby was secretly baptized and brought up as an Orthodox Christian. His parents were wealthy so he obtained an excellent education and as a young man he distinguished himself as a soldier and was greatly loved by the Emperor.

When his parents died, Demetrius was called before the Emperor and was appointed military governor in his late father's place. He was told by the Emperor to persecute all Christians, but instead, Demetrius continued to preach the Christian faith.

Soon, he heard that the Emperor was coming to Thessalonica, so he immediately sold half of his estate and distributed the proceeds among the poor and the other half he gave a trusted servant so he could continue to help the needy. He was now ready.

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This newsletter is sponsored in memory of

Charlie O. Psychas

who passed away October 24, 1997.

Offered by his wife; Donna, sons, Ted, Greg, Chris, Tim Psychas
and families.

May His Memory Be Eternal!

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When Emperor Maximilian came into the city, he immediately called for Demetrius and asked him if he was Christian. When Demetrius confessed that he was indeed a Christian, he was thrown into prison where he continued to praise God and encourage other imprisoned Christians to be brave and believe firmly in Jesus.

The Emperor loved circuses and especially contests that ended with one contestant killing another. He had a strong giant with whom Christians were ordered to wrestle. Spears and sharp spikes were driven into the ground, with the spear heads sticking out and upon them the giant would throw the Christian that he wrestled. During one of these performances, a young Christian by the name of Nestor was in the stands. He decided to wrestle the giant, but before entering the ring he went to see Demetrius in the prison and asked him to pray so that he could destroy the giant. When the giant, twice Nestor's size, saw Nestor approaching he laughed and attempted to lift Nestor off the ground, but was unable to do so.

Nestor then picked up the giant and threw him down upon the spearheads. The Emperor was furious, not only because he had lost his beloved giant, but also because he had the people shouting. "Great is the God of Christians and of the Christians, Nestor." The Emperor ordered that Nestor be immediately beheaded and that Demetrius be slain.

When the freedom of Christianity was finally proclaimed, many miracles were performed at the Church near where the body of Demetrius was buried. One wealthy person, after been miraculously cured of an illness, vowed that he would build a new church in honor of St. Demetrius. After the church was built and the grave of the Saint opened so it would be taken into the new church, they found the Saint's body intact as if it had just been buried, although many years had passed since then. From the grave there came a sweet odor and a secretion in the form of oil-myrrh, which when applied to a sick person, cured them. This is why St. Demetrius is called "Myrrh-Bearer." The Saturday before this holy day is called "St. Demetrius' Saturday" and on this day we offer special prayers for the departed, especially for the soldiers who gave their lives on the field of battle.+

Bake Sale

The annual Bake Sale is Saturday, November 21st. In the Narthex are the sign up sheets for making soup, zelnik and helping at the sale.

This Month in St. Demetrius Church History.....

October 5, 1957-1958

The first religious education classes for St. Demetrius began October 5, 1957. Dedicated Orthodox students from the Pan-Orthodox Student Association of Michigan State University came regularly to Jackson. They were: Robert Fadel (who later served St. Demetrius as Deacon), Marianne Tkach, Marie Subotich and Sarah Tallon. Twenty-eight children were gathered for these classes! The following year, October 5, 1958, a major historic event took place when Bishop Bogdan visited Jackson to bless the new quarters the parish had secured as a temporary chapel and classroom center. This temporary chapel was at 1216 Cooper Street in Jackson. On October 5, Fr. Photius and Bishop Bogdan concelebrated the Vespers at which His Grace spoke with encouragement to the faithful who attended. He praised them for their commitment to Orthodoxy in working for the establishment of the parish.

October 26, 1958

Father Photius Donahue celebrated St. Demetrius' first Patronal Feast Day at its temporary chapel Cooper Street mission. Under the self-sacrificing labors of Father John Ball, who had been appointed by Father Photius to be the first permanent pastor of St. Demetrius, another historic milestone was soon achieved when the church purchased its permanent Temple at 3043 Seymour Road.

Notable Anniversary Dates for October 26

On its Tenth Year Anniversary 1968, the parish Temple was consecrated by Archbishop Jonathan and celebrated with a Pontifical Divine Liturgy at the church. A banquet and dance at the Policy National Alliance Hall followed. The Twentieth Anniversary of the parish in 1978 was celebrated with a Divine Liturgy and a Panikhida for all of our departed members. A dinner followed at the Brown Hut with Bishop Ireney of the Russian Patriarchate as a surprise guest of honor. Our Thirtieth Anniversary was celebrated in 1988 with Metropolitan Theodosius, Bishop Boris and Protodeacon Basil Hubiak. A Dinner Dance at Jackson Community College followed. In 1993 Bishop Job made his first visit to Jackson to celebrate St. Demetrius' 35th Anniversary and on our 44th Anniversary in 2002 he presented Father Dusan Koprivica with the Gold Cross. This is the highest award a Bishop can bestow upon a Priest. On October 26, 2008, Archbishop Job returned to celebrate our parish's 50th year milestone Anniversary! Following was a banquet and slideshow at the Jackson Country Club. Bishop Paul visited St. Demetrius on its 60th Anniversary in 2018 and in 2023 Bishop Daniel came to St. Demetrius to honor our parish's 65th Anniversary. Copies of our icon booklet, illustrating the stunning icons and frescos of the church, were made available for purchase. An anniversary banquet took place at the Jackson Country Club. This October 26, 2026 will mark St. Demetrius' 68th Anniversary!

October 31, 1983

Shortly after celebrating its 25th Anniversary, Archpriest Father Photius Donahue, our founding priest, fell asleep in the Lord.

**St. Demetrius Orthodox Church
Archpriest Fr. Dusan Koprivica
3043 Seymour Road
P.O. Box 125
Jackson, Michigan 49204
517 784-0116
stdemetrius.com**

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P.O. Box 125
Jackson, Michigan 49204