

Our 50th Anniversary

We began our celebration with a family picnic in early October. On Wednesday October 23rd, the parish hosted a VIP reception for the sponsors of the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Album, the archons, the past presidents of the Parish Council and the families of the church founders at the Ocean View Room of the Adam's Mark Hotel & Resort. Commemorative awards were presented to the sponsors and pins were given to the presidents. On Friday October 23th, His Grace Bishop Alexios of Atlanta officiated at the vesper services, assisted by Fr. Nicholas Manousakis, Fr. Michael Byer, Fr. Mark Elliott and Fr. Demetrios Leusis. The services were followed by a reception with refreshments prepared and served by the Seniors' VIP Club.

Saturday morning the Divine Liturgy for the feast day of St. Demetrios was celebrated by His Grace, with Fr. Nick, Fr. Michael and Fr. Demetrios assisting. At the conclusion of the service, Constantine and Constance Rizopoulos were presented with a framed certificate in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Saturday evening the Grand Banquet was held in Ball Room of the Adam's Mark Hotel and Resort. The celebration began with introductions of the dais by Co-chairman Marcel Psomas. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University ROTC Color Guard presented the colors. The American National Anthem was sung by Stephanie Bourantanis and Legeria Danielides sang the Greek Anthem. Master of Ceremonies was Tasso Kiriakes. The invocation was delivered by His Grace Bishop Alexios of Atlanta followed by dinner.

Our local Diaskethasi dance group, consisting of fourteen dancers, entertained with special candle effects and a very special tribute to the troupe's former teacher and mentor, George Moutsopoulos, who passed away in September. A beautifully framed photo was presented to George's widow, Irene, and their daughter, Kathy. Each dancer also presented a rose of remembrance to Mrs. Moutsopoulos.

George Pappas, Parish Council President and Eve Ann Magoulas, President of St. Barbara's Philoptochos offered their greetings and comments. Mayor Baron Asher offered his greetings and presented His Grace, Fr. Nick and Presvytera, each, with a key to the city of Daytona Beach. Dee Nicolaou, President of the Atlanta Diocesan Philoptochos spoke briefly. Fr. Nicholas G. Manousakis, our pastor, offered reflections spanning his 19 years of service to the St. Demetrios parish.

The Keynote Speaker, Harry Mark Petrakis, noted author and humorist, shared his thoughts of days gone by. The guests rocked with laughter as he told stories that brought memories of first generation Greek family life.

His Grace made brief comments before he, Father Nick and Co-Chairman Michael J. Forest made special presentations of St. Demetrios icons, brought from Greece, for the families of parish founders. The final presentation was made to both Fr. Nick and Presvytera Kostoula Manousakis in honor of their 19 years of devoted and faithful service to St. Demetrios. His Grace gave the benediction as the program ended and the dancing began.

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, everyone gathered in the beautifully decorated Community Center for a luncheon sponsored by the Philoptochos. Dee Nicolaou was the keynote speaker and was later presented with a key to the city by Mayor Baron Asher. Harry Mark Petrakis entertained us with more of his classic humor. At the conclusion of the luncheon Mr. Petrakis made himself available for book signing. The luncheon concluded the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

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Weekly Committee Workshop



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VIP Reception



Vesper Services



Our 50th Anniversary



Reception after Vesper Services



Our 50th Anniversary



St. Demetrios Day Services



Our 50th Anniversary



Grand Banquet & Dance



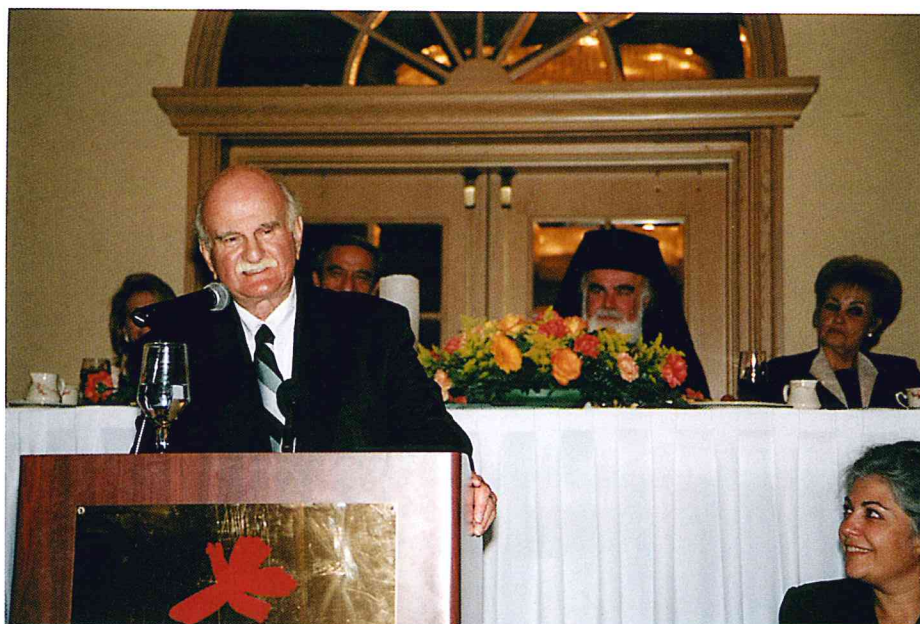
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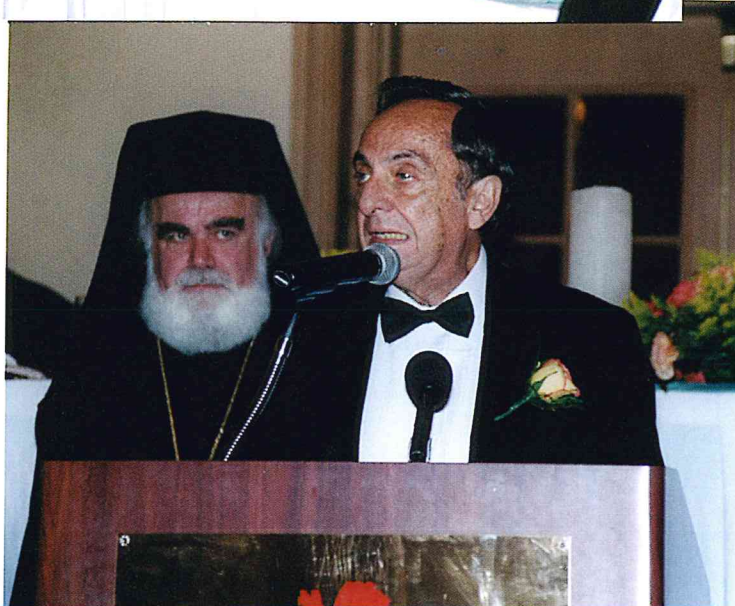
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*Luncheon sponsored
by the Philoptochos*

