

2016 St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest

Less than a dozen teenagers participate in this annual event however, the competition for the three prizes is rigorous. Last year Amelia Antzoulatos of St. John the Theologian, Tenafly, NJ; Stephanie Edwards, St. Nektarios, Charlotte, NC; Christopher N. Karafotias, St. Andrew, Chicago, IL; Odysseas Vasillios Nikas, St. George, Chicago, IL; Cindy Samaan, St. Demetrios, Daytona, Beach, FL; Demetri Lagoutaris, Venetia Lagoutaris and Ellie Stamatogiannakis (St. John the Divine, Jacksonville, FL) submitted their essays based upon the immigrant story of a family member with the immigrant story of the Greeks who arrived in America with the Turnbull expedition in 1768, or, defending the historic and significant importance of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine as a historic and sacred place.

Ellie Stamatogiannakis placed first, Christopher Karafotias placed second, and Cindy Samaan placed third. Ellie and Cindy read their prize-winning essays to attendees celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine at the St. Photios National Shrine Day Banquet.

All teens, ages 13-19 are encouraged to submit a 1000-word entry for the 2017 St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest by January 5, 2018.