



Friends

NEWSLETTER

St. Augustine, FL ~ 2016

Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Celebrates Its 34th Annual Pilgrimage Feast Day



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Trustees of the St. Photios National Foundation Convene for the 2016 St. Photios Foundation Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the St. Photios Foundation convened the weekend of February 5-7, in St. Augustine, FL. Presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, the Foundation Trustees' Luncheon featured John Galanis, AHEPA Supreme President. The Supreme President spoke of the importance of heritage and commitment and presented a check of \$500 on behalf of AHEPA to the Foundation.

Ecclesiastical services were held throughout the weekend in the St. Photios Chapel, culminating with Sunday's Archieratical Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated at the St. Augustine parish of Holy Trinity. Assisting His Eminence were Rev. Dr. Christopher T. Metropulos, Father Theodore Stavrou, Father Demetri Leussis and Deacon Athanasios Kartsonis. His Eminence thanked Hellenic College Holy Cross ambas-

sadors Demetrios Constantine, Cassandra Garibaldi, Alexander Kamilaris and Sarah Livick-Moses for chanting the services throughout the weekend. He gratefully acknowledged the sponsorship of the students by Mrs. Helen Carlos and the hospitality of Jim and Connie Demetriou. Mrs. Elaine Tissura chaired the 34th Annual St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Pilgrimage Feast Day Banquet at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine. Archon Nicholas J. Furriss served as Master of Ceremonies. Archon Dr. Manuel N. Tissura, St. Photios Foundation 1st Vice President, presented a check for \$50,000 to the Foundation Enhancement Account from the Hellenic Tower Board of Trustees of Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Tissura recognized Mrs. Polly Hillier for her 10 years of devoted service and dedication as Director of the St. Photios National Shrine.

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Metropolitan Alexios

Archbishop Demetrios of America's Encyclical on the Feast of Saint Photios **From Protocol 13/16, February 6, 2016**

"On this blessed Feast of Saint Photios the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople, we commemorate a Saint who offered a brilliant witness of the truth and love of God. Having a tremendous intellectual ability and a deep love and faith in Christ, he endured false accusations, threats, and ordeals, yet he remained a true messenger of the Gospel. Throughout his life Saint Photios was a faithful ambassador for Christ, never wavering in his apostolic mission to proclaim the truth that leads to God and salvation.

The witness and faithfulness of Saint Photios affirms the mission and ministry of our Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Florida. For decades the directors, staff, and benefactors of the Shrine have been ambassadors for Christ in many ways. The Shrine has been a place of remembrance, commemorating the place and the legacy of Greeks who made the arduous journey to North America in 1768, endured suffering and deprivation as indentured servants, and gathered in the Averro House to find strength and hope through faith and community.

The Saint Photios National Shrine offers a witness of Christ through our Orthodox Christian faith and our Hellenic heritage. The beautiful chapel invites visitors to reflect and pray in a very sacred space dedicated to God. In preserving the story of faith in the lives of our Greek forbearers who came to this land, the Shrine affirms the priority of faith in our lives as Greek Americans and Orthodox Christians.



**Archbishop Demetrios of
America**

The benefactors and directors of the Shrine have also been ambassadors for Christ through their support for our seminarians at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. For the past three years, the Shrine has hosted seminarians for the annual National Shrine Pilgrimage thanks to the generosity of our benefactors. Thus, several of our future clergy will have a connection with the Shrine that will remain with them throughout their lives and ministries in the service of Christ and His Church.

In our commemoration of the Feast of Saint Photios, please offer your prayers and gifts of support to our Saint Photios National Shrine. As many from throughout our Holy Archdiocese gather on the weekend of February 6 for the annual Pilgrimage, may we affirm the vital ministry of our National Shrine, and in all of our places in life seek to be ambassadors for Christ so that others may find light and life in Him.

With paternal love in Him,

†DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

2015 National Shrine Essay Contest Winners

High school students compared the immigrant story of a family member with the immigrant story of the Greeks who arrived in America with the Turnbull expedition in 1768.

On behalf of the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest program, Katherine Bacalis announced the winners of the Eleventh Annual National Shrine Essay Contest. Florentina Sergiou, parishioner of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Toms River, NJ placed first; Joshua Graziani of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Southgate, MI placed second; and Victoria Martine of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Carmel, IN placed third.

The St. Photios Foundation Board of Trustees joined the Essay Committee members in offering congratulations to the students, their parents and their parishes. First VP Archon Dr. Manuel N Tisura expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Kate D 'Anna and AHEPA

Speedway Chapter 410 for their financial support of the program. "It is one of the few ways to connect with high school students across the country. The Essay contest gets our kids thinking about early Greek Immigration to America and the history of their own families."

Mrs. Bacalis expressed deep appreciation to essay judges Dr. Eleni Derke, Dr. Constantine Santos and Stathis Xynidis and committee members Dr. Tony Tsitos and Renee Gahagan for the time and resources they brought to this valuable program.

Florentina Sergiou underscored the mission of the Essay program in her essay summary: "I learned a lot from writing this essay. I never knew that some of the first Greek immigrants came over in the 1700's. I always thought that it wasn't until Ellis Island opened that there were Greeks in America. When you think about it, our culture has been broadcasted throughout the nation for almost 250 years, we still follow our religious traditions, teach our children to speak, read and write the language and learn the dances and music and so much more."

What is St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine?

"It is a two-story house where we found a place to pray, a place to serve and a place to be served. When we walked through the peaceful courtyard we knew that we were leaving our daily cares behind. You feel like you are standing with the saints in the chapel. The chapel is amazing. I saw the relic of my saint! The icons are right there, next to you. God is with you in that chapel." ---comments from the youth of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, IL



Father Andrew Georganas, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos with the Youth & Chaperones of St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, IL

About six months ago, St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, IL pastoral assistant, Alex Magdalinos began planning for his parish senior GOYAN visit to St. Photios. The fruit of his efforts was amazing. 14 youth, their chaperones, Alex and their proistamenos, Father Andrew Georganas, came to learn about St. Photios and OCMC while offering service to the Shrine.

On April 28th, the senior Sunday school students from Holy Trinity in Charlotte, NC, made their annual pilgrimage to St. Photios. Teachers Jimmy Demopoulos, George and Effie Fotopoulos Asikis led the 10 students on a tour of the St. Augustine and reflections on resources for the college bound Greek Orthodox students.

Both groups went on prayer walks, enjoyed the fellowship of surrounding parishes and toured the historic city of St. Augustine. Both groups learned about institutions and departments of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Special thanks to the parish of St. Demetrios. They took to task the needs of the Shrine and made a great difference! Their day of service included clearing leaves off the massive roof, planting dozens of flowers, removing the wax off the chapel floor and dusting the chapel light fixtures, disposing hundreds of pounds of leaves raked from the back yard, and working on the archives project. God bless you!

Special thanks to Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Father Joseph Saamaan at St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, Father Nicholas Louh and Pastoral Assistant Alyssa Kyritsis for making the visit to their parishes meaningful. God bless Shrine staff and volunteers, Allan Hillier, Dean Karris, and Tony Tsitos who led the work teams. Let us help your parish plan a pilgrimage to St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine!



Holy Trinity, Charlotte, NC

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest

On behalf of the Essay Committee, Katherine P. Bacalis, chair, invites all teens, 13 to 19 years of age, to research and write on one of these two topics

There are many historical and sacred sites throughout the world. What makes Saint Photios Greek Orthodox Shrine a historic and significant site for Greek Orthodox Christians?

Or

Every American (other than those born of a Native American father and mother) born in the United States can trace their family's history to an ancestor who came to America from a foreign country. Compare and contrast your family's immigrant history with the immigrant history of the New Smyrna Colonists of 1768.



The Essay Committee accepts submissions throughout the year through December 31, 2016.

The committee sends blind copies of the essays to three judges on January 3rd. They are ranked and received by January 25th. Certificates of Participation are sent for signature to His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios. At that time the results are posted.

Prizes are awarded to the top ranking three: first place wins \$500, second place wins \$250 and third place wins \$100.

The Essay Program is supported by Mrs. Kathie D'Anna and the AHEPA SPEEDWAY CHAPTER #410. become property of St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. Please submit a cover page with your name, address, phone number, home parish where you worship and email address.

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church- Celebrating its Centennial A Friend of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine for 50 years

By Mary Roman



The book on the Legacy of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL reads 100 years of history and pictures of a parish incorporated prior to the incorporation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America. It includes

a chapter on the founding and establishment of the St. Photios Shrine. It tells of the struggles and tribulations of the first settlers in St. Augustine and bookmarks the history that gave the Shrine the title of "Our Plymouth Rock". The colonists' spiritual inspiration to trust God with faith and hope were the beginning of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America.

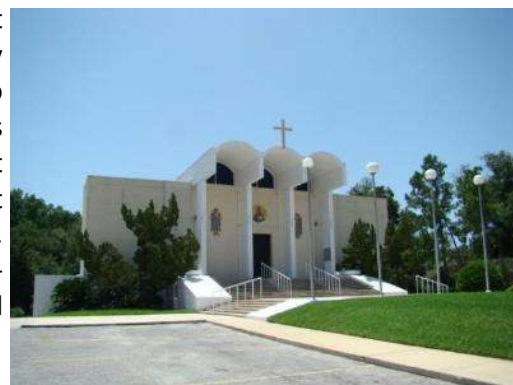
The Jacksonville parish was formally established by a handful of immigrant families. These families were the charter members of St. John the Divine and their parish boundary lines included St. Augustine. Their actions inspired deeper love and trust in God when establishing both the St. John the Divine Parish in 1916 and the acquisition of the Avero property that would transform into St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in 1966.

On March 6, 1976, Father John Hondras celebrated the first Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in St. Augustine. For the next ten years, Father Paul Costopoulos served the St. Augustine parish. In 1992, Father George Gallos became the first full-time priest in St. Augustine's church. His appointment established that parish as self-supporting for its ecclesiastical services and the parish of St. John the Divine had fulfilled its responsibilities to the parishioners of St. Augustine. All the clergy worked closely with the Shrine clergy – Bishop John of

Amorion (1970's) and Bishop Dimitrios (who began his tenure at St. Photios as a lay person – James George Couchell).

St. John the Divine continues its original love and commitment for the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. It is our memorial honoring the first Greek colonists who came to America in 1768. In recent years, the proistamenos of St. John the Divine has the added responsibility to serve in the role as Executive Director of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. In 2005, the proistamenos, V. Rev. Nicholas Graff recruited Mrs. Polixeni Maouris Hillier. Today, "Polly" serves as Director of St. Photios.

The perseverance of parishioners of St. John saw the opening of this 'jewel of St. George Street.' Peter Bouras, George Parandes, Ted Johnson, Sam and Jerry Felos, Steve Poulos, Tom Christon, George Carantza, and Shrine architect Ted Pappas have all left their mark on the Shrine. Without a doubt, the Shrine has left its impression on thousands but so much in the hearts of the parishioners of St. John. The parishioners of St. John the Divine must pause as they celebrate the parish's 100 year legacy and also celebrate the 50 year legacy of St. Photios. Glory to God for St. John's being a premier parish within our great metropolis and holy archdiocese but also for the sacrifices and talents brought to realizing our first national shrine, St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine.



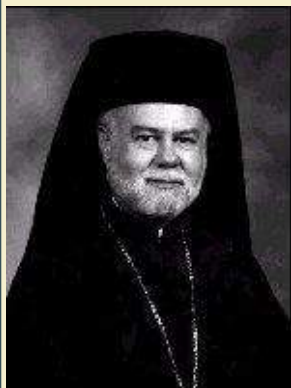
***Follow the
St. Photios Greek
Orthodox National Shrine
on Facebook for all
the latest news!***

Greek Landing Day **Saturday, June 25, 2016**



The St. Photios Foundation will recognize the 248th anniversary of Greek Landing Day on Saturday, June 25th. The public is invited to celebrate matins and the hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, presiding. Services begin at 9:00 a.m. The V. Rev. Father Joseph Samaan will assist.

The Mayoral proclamation will follow the colonists' memorial. Members of the St. Barbara's Philoptochos Chapter of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Daytona Beach, Florida are planning activities for the day. More details will be available on the Shrine website.



The Foundation also celebrates the anniversary of the priestly ordination of our beloved Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos. *Deacon Dimitrios* was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Archbishop Iakovos on Pentecost Sunday, June 26, 1983, in St. Augustine. The date was significant: it marked the 215th anniversary of the landing in St. Augustine of the first Greek colony on the North American continent. On February 23, 1985, the occasion of the consecration of the shrine's Chapel of St. Photios, Archbishop Iakovos elevated Fr. Dimitrios to the rank of Archimandrite. On May 31, 1998, Bishop Dimitrios was consecrated to the episcopacy after being unanimously elected on May 18th by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople as an auxiliary bishop with the title Bishop of Xanthos. May God grant him many years.

Continued from pg. 1

Joanne Stavrakas (National Philoptochos Society), HCHC Ambassador Cassandra Garibaldi (Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology) and Grand President Connie Pilallis (Daughters of Penelope), offered greetings on behalf of their organizations

Metropolitan Alexios awarded emeritus status posthumously upon Archon Angelo Koukoulis for over three decades of service. The award was received by his son, Charles Koukoulis. His Eminence then awarded the certificate of participation in the Wall of Tribute program to Angelo and Sherry Kliosis. Theodora and Sotiris Sergiou were called to the dais to accept the \$500 prize and Essay Contest Certificate for their daughter, Florentina, who placed first in the 2015 St. Photios Essay Contest.

HCHC President, Rev. Dr. Christopher Metropulos offered the keynote address and introduced the newest video produced for HCHC. His address focused on the Church as a vibrant, growing entity and its needs for the future. He conveyed the important relationship between St. Photios National Shrine and Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology.

In conclusion, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios praised the meaningful, positive accomplishments of the weekend's events. Following his pastoral blessing, the benediction was given by His Grace Bishop Dimitrios, assisted by Father Nick Louh. All in attendance came away spiritually nourished and with a sense of fulfillment in the St. Photios Shrine of St. Augustine.



The Cantorae St. Augustine performed 8 selections from music of the Russian and American Orthodox traditions at the close of Great Vespers on February 5th at St. Photios Shrine. Cantorae St. Augustine was founded in 2007 by Mary Jane Ballou to revive traditional chant and sacred music in St. Augustine. The Cantorae accompanied the Orthodox faithful at the September memorial held at the Tolomato Cemetery. Singers include sopranos: Mary Jane Ballou (Director), Beverly Barker, Stephanie Colsant, Philomena Sington and altos: Elizabeth Duran Gessner and Kathy Hale.



**Polly Hillier, Metropolitan Alexios,
Sherry & Angelo Kliossis with Nick Farris**



**Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos offers
the Benediction**



**Blessing of the Five Loaves Celebrating the
Feast of St. Photios the Great, Ecumenical
Patriarch of Constantinople**



**Keynote Speaker,
Dr. Christopher J Metropu-
los, President of Hellenic
College Holy Cross**



**Eleni Angelopoulos, Angela
Assimenios and Shrine 2nd
VP Anthony Megas**



Olga and Archon Harry Plomarity



**HCHC Ambassadors Alex Kamilaris,
Sarah Livick-Moses, Cassandra
Garibaldi and Demetri Constantine**



**Metropolitan Alexios and
Charles A. Koukoulis**



**Connie Pilallis, Daughters of
Penelope Grand President
with DOP member Stephanie
Megas Petty**



**HCHC Ambassador Chanters
Sarah Livick—Moses and
Demetrios Constantine**



**Mrs. Elaine Tissura, Leslye Alex
Phillips and Sherry Kliossis**



Deacon Athanasios Kartsonis



**Archon Christo Daphnides
and Deacon Photios Dickos**



3rd Annual Wine Raffle



**Theodora and Sotiri Sergiou with
Nick Stamatogiannakis**



**John Galanis, AHEPA Supreme President,
presents check to St. Photios Foundation**



**National Shrine Pilgrimage Banquet
at the Casa Monica Hotel**



**Joanne Stavarakas offers remarks on behalf of
President Maria Logus and National
Philoptochos Ladies Society**



**Connie Demetriou, host mom to HCHC am-
bassadors with Maria Condaxis & Katryna
Demetriou**



**Cassandra Garibaldi offers
greetings on behalf of Hellenic
College Holy Cross**



**Archon Philip Yamalis, Archon Dr.
Manuel N. Tissura, Sophia Karako-
glou, Archon Harry T. Cavalaris
and Theodora Sergiou**



**Harry Cavalaris, Peter Yamalis,
Metropolitan Alexios and Niko Kelley**



**Archon Dr. Manuel Tissura Presents
Check for \$50,000 on behalf of
Hellenic Tower, Inc.**



Trustees Luncheon



Founders Memorial



**Metropolitan Alexios
recognizes Shrine
Volunteer Dr. Tony Tsitos**



**Metropolitan Alexios with
emcee Archon Nicholas Furrus**

Greek Official Visits St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Mayor Nancy Shaver were among the dignitaries to greet the Honorable Terens Spencer Nicholas Quick, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of Greece and Consul General Adamantia Klotsa at St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine on Sunday, February 28th. Mr. Quick is the first member of the Greek Government to make an official visit to the City of St. Augustine.

Ms. Shaver presented the MP with the City of St. Augustine coin. One side depicts the Crest of St. Augustine and on the other

Polexeni Hillier, director of St. Photios National Shrine and Dr. John Symeonides Of AHEPA Daytona Speedway gave a tour of the Shrine to the visitors. His Grace, Bishop Dimitrios, on behalf of the St. Photios Foundation, presented the Deputy Minister with the St. Photios medal.

The delegation of 50 persons from the Tampa Bay area and Greece were served traditional Greek fare prepared by Mrs. Lesley Alex Phillips and Mrs. Vasso Poulos. Hostesses were Mrs. Jo Condaxis of St. John the Divine Jacksonville, Mrs. Nicola Lykam and daughter, Sophia of Holy Trinity, St. Augustine and from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Sarahjeane Campbell.

The group then went to the oldest planned cemetery of Florida, the Tolomato Cemetery where many of the survivors of the New Smyrna Colony are interred. The group was greeted by the director, Elizabeth Gessner and members of the Preservation Association. Deputy Minister Quick placed a white and blue wreath at the plaque honoring the Greeks and other of

Mediterranean descent buried on the grounds. The group venerated the icon of Christ in the Chapel and then learned about Mary Genopoly Darling, the first teacher at the Wooden Schoolhouse and daughter of Ioannis Ioannopolis – Juan Genopoly.

Next stop was the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse, built by Juan Genopoly, one of the New Smyrna colonists who were granted sanctuary in the Avero House in 1777. The staff opened the grounds and shared the history of this favorite historic home on St. Augustine. Juan Genopoly, one of the original inhabitants of the house, also became the first school teacher. After marrying, Juan Genopoly added the second story and transformed the house into a co-ed school in 1788. The second-story provided Juan and his family the seclusion they needed to separate his public and private life.

After lunch at the award winning Columbia Restaurant, the delegation proceeded to Saint Augustine National Cemetery. Deputy Minister Quick placed a blue and white wreath at the burial site of Ambrose Callistus Masters. Private Masters was a veteran of WWI and descended from the Greek Minorcans who came to America in 1768 with the Turnbull expedition known as the New Smyrna Colony.

The memorial hymn was sung and the group then dispersed. The Deputy Minister and Mayor Shaver committed to establishing a Sister City relationship between the two countries. Both look forward to continuing to honor the Greeks in the Diaspora who are an integral part of American immigration story.



Commander George Kostanis, Paul Kotrotsios, Bill Mataragas, Deputy Minister to the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Terens Spencer Nikolaos Quick, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Ms. Adamantia Klotsa, Consul General of Greece in Tampa, FL at the wreath laying memorial service held at St. Augustine National Cemetery.

St. Augustine, FL -- St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is located in the Colonial Quarter of St. Augustine, FL. It is a sacred and historical site built in memory of the 500 Greeks who came to America with the Turnbull expedition in 1768. The chapel has a reliquary with the bone fragments of 18 saints of the early Church in the narthex and the relics of 3 female saints in the altar. The chapel and museum occupy the historic Avero House – a 2-story structure that was built in the 1740's, razed and then reconstructed. In 1982, the Shrine opened with a clear mission to actively witness Orthodox Christianity, share the Hellenic culture and honor the memory of all immigrants who came to America in quest of a new life.

Contact Us

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2016 Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat Theme "The Beloved in Me"



Pausing during the Morning Prayer Walk in front of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, FL

For the first time in 25 years, the St. Anargyroi Ladies Philoptochos chapter held its annual retreat at its home parish of St. John the Divine in Jacksonville, FL. 32 women from the surrounding parishes of St. John the Divine, St. Justin the Martyr and Holy Trinity attended as well as one person from Holy Trinity, Clearwater.

Spiritual advisor, Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh, opened the event with prayer and thoughts to reflect on throughout the day. He introduced retreat leader, Paula Marchman and thanked her for taking the time to lend her expertise and love throughout all the Metropolis. Philoptochos Chapter President, Pamela Pappas Toundas, welcomed everyone and underscored 2016 as St. John the Divine's Centennial milestone. Pam thanked the chairs who underwrote all the needs for the day – Sandra Antonopoulos, Maria Pappas and GeeGee Angelopoulos.

After the icebreaker, led by Sandy Antonopoulos, retreat leader, Paula Marchman, MA, LPC, guided the women in understanding and embracing the theme, The Beloved in Me. She used icons and the imagery of Michelangelo's Creation depiction from the Sistine Chapel, as well as reference to Henri Nouwen's writings. Interactive breakout sessions, a video, as well as the morning prayer walk and a needle art craft completed this day of realizing a deeper connection with our Creator as we built stronger bonds between one another.

Ms. Marchman is the Managing Director of Family Life Ministry for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta. She practices Christian psychotherapy in her private practice and is experienced in family and couples therapy in Atlanta, GA. She received her Baccalaureate degree in Biology/Chemistry from Georgia State University and her Master's degree in Professional Counseling. She and her husband, Thomas Lekas, are members of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta and enjoy spending time with their 8 grandchildren. Her writings can be found at www.familylifeministry.atlanta.goarch.org.



Retreat Leader, Paula Marchman, of the Metropolis of Atlanta Family Life Ministry at St. John the Divine



Pastoral Assistant, Alyssa Loutsion Kyritsis with Diakonissa Karen Koloniotis

We invite you to share in the future of the St. Photios National Shrine by joining hands with us and making a financial commitment to the future of the Shrine.

We can be proud of the tremendous achievement the St. Photios Shrine represents, but even as the Shrine is dedicated to those first Greek people who came to America in search of freedom and a better life for their children, we must in remembering them now look to the future so that we may preserve their rich heritage and perpetuate their high ideals. To honor the Shrine's many faithful supporters, The St. Photios Foundation has set aside a special recognition wall. Fittingly it is called **"The Wall of Tribute."**

We invite you to share in that future by joining hands with us and making a financial commitment to the future of the Shrine. We invite you to add your name or the names of your loved ones to the list of people already committed by making a donation of \$2,000 or more.

For your generosity, we would like to inscribe the names of those you wish to honor in perpetuity, either living or in



memory, on The Wall of Tribute. Fittingly, this tribute is located just outside the sacred St. Photios Chapel. **If interested, please contact the St. Photios Shrine at (904)829-8205.**

The St. Photios Foundation is thankful for its Shrine Volunteers

Over the past 35 years, faithful stewards of our Archdiocese's *first Shrine* have maintained the physical building while providing resources for the St. Photios Outreach ministry. Each year, we recognize exemplary service given by our Shrine Volunteers. Congratulations and thank you to 2016 honorees: Dr. Tony Tsitos, Jim Harker and James Pearson.

For the past six years, GeeGee Angelopoulos, Angela Assimenios, Leslye Alex Phillips and Alixe Stamatogiannakis have worked with others to insure the National Shrine Day Pilgrimage Weekend has the financial resources needed. We thank them for the joy and success of the 3rd annual Wine Raffle – KE TOY XPONOI!



***Shrine Volunteer
James Pearson***



Shrine Volunteers Marcy Ballis, GeeGee Angelopoulos and Alixe Stamatogiannakis



***Shrine Volunteer
James Harker***



***Shrine Volunteer
Tony Tsitos with His
Eminence, Metro-
politan Alexios of
Atlanta***

Shrine Visitors

Father Martin and Presvytera Renee Ritsi brought Metropolitan Konstantinos of Singapore to St. Photios on April 5. This was a stop during his visit to America which included meetings at the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. His Eminence was born in 1973 in Piraeus. He studied at the Higher Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens and the Department of Pastoral Theology of the School of Theology of Athens University.

As a layman, and for a period of fifteen years, he worked as a journalist for church and secular journals and newspapers, as a collaborator and producer of radio programs, and as a news editor for church and secular radio stations, including the stations of the Church of Piraeus, the Church of Greece, and the Radio Station of Art and the Word of the Municipality of Thessalonica. He is a regular contributor to the printed and electronic press. He served at the Holy Metropolis of Piraeus as a Sunday School teacher, on the staff of the summer camps, as a collaborator of the Youth Department, and as a representative at youth conferences. He was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Nikitas, Metropolitan of Hong Kong, on 25 January 2003, and Priest, by the same, on 26 January 2003. On 19 July 2003 he was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite.

From 1998, he regularly visited the missionary Metropolitanate of Hong Kong as a volunteer, while after his ordination, in 2003, he served at the Holy Metropolitanate of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia as Vicar General, and from March 2005 until today, he served as Chancellor. Following the tsunami in South Eastern Asia, in December 2004, he organized programs of moral and material support for the victims of the disaster, the distribution of humanitarian aid, and the reconstruction of clinics and schools in Thailand and the Nias Islands off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. He has a good command of the

written and spoken English language. He has some knowledge of Italian, French, and Hebrew. He also knows sign language and Braille.

He was elected on November 3rd, 2011 by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as the first Orthodox Metropolitan of Singapore and South Asia and he was ordained as Bishop on November 21st by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



His Eminence, +Konstantinos, Metropolitan of Singapore visits St. Photios Chapel with Fr. Martin and Pres. Renee Ritsi of OCMC

Let Us Light-A-Candle for You

On Saturday, February 27, 1982, a tradition began. On the dedication day of our National Shrine, the beautiful St. Photios Chapel came alive with the glow of candles lit in memory of the "Protoporoi"- our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who forged a new life in a strange land so that we might enjoy freedom and a better life.

Hundreds of candles were lit by the Greek Orthodox faithful present that day. Thousands, however, were not able to be present for this historic event, but they were able to participate in spirit. They submitted their names, the names of loved ones and the names of their ancestors who first came to this land and we lit a candle, and offered up a prayer, for them.

This tradition continues today. There is no greater ministry than the Shrine Prayer Ministry. The Light A Candle program supports that ministry. We invite you to share in this sacred traditions which began 37 years ago by letting us light a candle for you.



The Friends Membership Program of St. Photios National Shrine

Yes, I would like to contribute to the Friends Membership Program

Please continue my membership or enroll me in the Friends Program

Please make checks payable to the St. Photios National Shrine and mail to P.O. Box 1960, St. Augustine, FL 32085. All donations are tax-deductible.

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$25



Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you to those who have already renewed and joined the 2016 Friends Program!
Your donation supports the outreach and ministry of the St. Photios National Shrine.

Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos	Connie Athens	Ann Kagdis	Spiro & Elayna Pappas
St. Andrew, Randolph, NJ	Rev. Nicholas & Vivian Bacalis	Mary Kakavas	Nicholas & Beverly Pappas
Annunciation Church, Norfolk, VA	Markella Balasis	Dn. And Dka. Athanasios Kartsonis	John & Vicky Patronis
St. Barbara, Toms River, NJ	George & Marietta Ballis	Demetrios & Demetra Kartsonis	James & Amanda Pearson
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