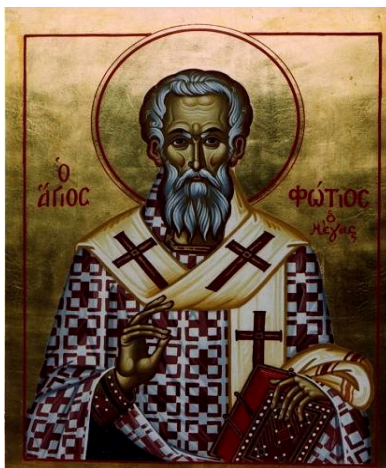




Friends

NEWSLETTER

St. Augustine, FL ~ 2015



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

National Shrine Day Stars	2-3
Meet the Authors	3
Shrine Event Photos	4-5
Pioneering Priests Exhibit	6-7
Alfred Funai Collection	7
Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat	8
Relics of the Shrine	9
Wall of Tribute	10
Essay Contest	11
House of Worship Tour	11
Gift Shop	11
In Memory	12

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.

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Sat, 9-5 & Sun, noon - 6:00.



33rd Annual Pilgrimage

The annual celebrations commemorating the Feast of St. Photios, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and Equal to the Apostles, presents an opportunity for the faithful to gather from across the nation with one purpose, to honor the Saint whose life strongly established the Church in the East by defending the Faith and insuring that the Orthodox Faith would be accessible to people near and far to Constantinople.

This year, the 33rd annual Pilgrimage Feastday weekend afforded four days of activities. Ecclesiastical services were celebrated: Great Vespers - Thursday, February 5th and Matins/Divine Liturgy, Friday, February 6th in the chapel of St. Photios; February 7th - Memorial at the AHEPA New Smyrna Memorial and Great Vespers at St. Demetrios in Daytona Beach; and February 8th - Matins/Divine Liturgy in the chapel of St. Photios.

The Foundation thanks Ron Hilliard and Helen Carlos, James and Constance De-

metriou and Allan and Polly Hillier, who through the United in Ministry initiative, provided for the Holy Cross student ambassadors, Cassandra Garibaldi, Demetri Constantine, Nicholas Lanzourakis, and Irene Koulianos, who served as chanters at all the events and presented the local parishes with Hellenic College promotional materials.



National Shrine Day Stars

Keynote Speaker ~ Nicholas J Furris

Archon Nicholas J. Furris graciously accepted Metropolitan Alexios' invitation to present the keynote address at the 33rd annual St. Photios Foundation Pilgrimage Banquet. Furris faithfully serves as Masters of Ceremonies at the annual event, but the faithful were eager to hear of his experience in the work he undertook in serving as Communications Coordinator and also filming His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Pope Francis in the Holy Lands May 25 and 26, 2015.

He answered by sharing what remains with him today, "To be not afraid." Here are excerpts of the full speech given on Sunday, February 8th at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine, FL.

"Do not be afraid as Francis and Bartholomew, who both with consequences, recognized the importance of this anniversary as a reminder that much has been accomplished between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches but much more needs to be done in order to bring us back to full communion. These are two great leaders who respect each other and recognize that unity can be and must be achieved despite the voices that sound off and continue to prefer division rather than unification. Remind people that dialogue and love trump evil, always! As per St. Paul, we are reminded that God's desire is One Church, One Faith!"

"Do not be afraid to profess your Orthodoxy. Be as bold and courageous as Photios the Great, the founder of the sacred institution we celebrate today. The great saint boldly sent many emissaries, including Sts. Cyril and Methodios, to the Slavic lands. He

professed the Faith to all yet with instruction to respect the cultures and traditions of the lands that were being evangelized; never insisting or discriminating anyone based on ethnicity, language, geographic location. I suggest we all do this as individuals and as churches. We cannot afford to be xenophobes. It stifles. Still water becomes poisonous. Share freely this gift of Orthodoxy and yes, Hellenism, for the two can never be separated. And the first way we all can do this is to find ways of supporting this institution that does this very thing day in and day out. Spread the word. Offer your time, your talent and yes your treasure. There is only one beloved St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine...our Plymouth Rock in these United States."

"Do not be afraid to stand for moral and social principals in line with your faith. Have courage...the courage our Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory. Despite death threats...he walked shoulder to shoulder with Dr. Martin Luther King when others would not. The writer and director of Selma did not forget to include this in their movie as it was a pivotal statement made by our Archbishop, although it was at the time not a very popular one! We must not be revisionist in our history but speak plainly. It was an unpopular move on His Eminence's part but today as we look back, it may be the singular greatest statement in the life of our Holy Archdiocese in America. Why? Because it was the right thing to do and it took courage!"

"Do not be afraid to fight injustices. The greatest injustice occurred in Jerusalem years ago. But make no mistake about it, today Christianity is under attack. Christians are being massacred all over the world, churches are



Archon Nicholas J Furris Gives the Keynote Address at the 33rd Annual St Photios Feastday Banquet

destroyed and desecrated, religious freedom is constantly attacked and for us as Greek Orthodox Christians under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, it continues. Have the courage as did our gentle and wise Archbishop Demetrios of America when in front of a packed room of worldwide reporters in Istanbul spoke softly yet so wisely, challenging the Turkish authorities of their persistent persecution of the Mother Church...I shall paraphrase: "Why is it that Turkey would not want or support the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the symbol of worldwide Orthodoxy that is established in this land? Instead it mocks and persecutes it! Can you imagine Italy doing this to the Vatican? This makes no sense whatsoever but shows that the Turkish authorities are not for true freedom of human, civil and religious rights and the world must take note!" His Eminence was not afraid.

Volunteer of the Year ~ Margo Kelley



Margo Toscas Kelley Receives
Volunteer Recognition

The St. Photios Foundation bestows an annual award upon a Friend of St. Photios Shrine who exhibits a steadfast commitment of time, talents and resources to its ministry. This year the Foundation rec-

ognized Margo N. Toscas Kelley, who supports the Shrine in many ways. Shrine Volunteer and Friend since 2006, Margo leads by example in all she does. She has been a retreat leader at the Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat, a contributor at the October Cultural Saturday, spearheaded a successful fundraising initiative while witnessing Orthodox Christian Faith, and serves as chanter throughout the year when ecclesiastical services are celebrated in the St. Photios Chapel.

It was an honor to bestow the 2015 St. Photios Award to Margo in the presence of members of the Toscas, Kelley, and Esper families. Her

mother, Maria, and her father of blessed memory, Nicholas, raised their family in Joliet, IL where they attended All Saints Greek Orthodox Church. Margo was blessed in Marriage to the former Antiochian Priest Edward Kelley, also of blessed memory, and especially with their son, Niko. She volunteers in the local community and serves various Church ministries including those of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, St. Photios National Shrine, OCMC, and AGES Initiatives.

Mistress of Ceremonies ~ Staci Spanos Gibson

Staci Spanos Gibson has worked in the television industry for 21 years, where she was most recently the main anchor of "The Morning Show" in Jacksonville, FL. Staci has accrued many accolades over the years, including an Edward R. Murrow Award for Journalistic Excellence and two Associated Press Awards.

Staci was also honored to help

facilitate a better understanding of Orthodoxy through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's web series "Discovering Orthodox Christianity." Staci and her husband Tom have two children, Evangelia and Zachary. She teaches Greek School to children at their home church, St John the Divine in Jacksonville.



Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos with Mistress
of Ceremonies, Staci Spanos Gibson

Meet the Authors



On Sunday, December 28th, the Friends of St. Photios hosted its final program of the year - **Meet the Authors!** The book promotion of My Road to Damascus written by Father Konstantine Tsigas and The Jesus Prayer and Me by Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis offered visitors the opportunity to meet members of this dynamic family and hear two amazing stories. Father Tsigas resides in Lake Mary, FL, and Greece, and his daughter, Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis resides in Succasunna, NJ. They both shared excerpts from their

books. Both books are available in the Shrine gift shop book store.





Family celebrating the marriage of Melissa Sarris Kauttu and Tory Strange



Dean and Joanne Stavarakas, Metropolis of Chicago, at the AHEPA New Smyrna Memorial



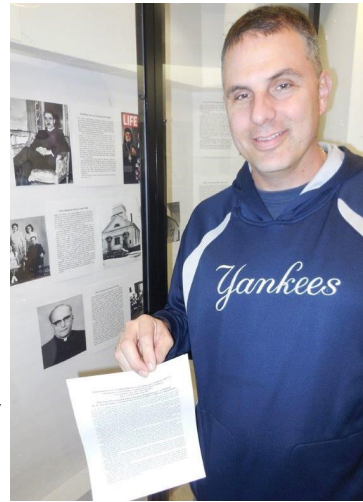
The youth and their parents from St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton, FL, pictured with their spiritual leaders, Father Mark Leondis and Father Steven Klund with Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos in the Shrine Constantine Sisters Courtyard following Divine Liturgy



Murray Students visit Shrine for insights into Greek culture after studying Greek Mythology



Diane Jacoby, Elderhostel Guide and friend of St. Photios, brings over 300 visitors to the Shrine throughout the year



Mark Panuthos, visits from St. Stephanos Greek Orthodox Church in St Petersburg, FL, to see the Shrine special exhibit, Pioneering Priests in America.



Presvytera Dianna Doukas Kazakis with her children Eleni and Andrew at the Blessing of the Ground for St. Nicholas Shrine with Mariann Mantzouris and Polly Hillier



Maryville Choir Members in St. Augustine for the Gospel Choir Competition



Father Mark Leondis inspiring us to embrace our family legacy



Lenore Welty and Vasiliki Fotinis on Women's Retreat Prayer Walk



Sunday School from the Orthodox Church of St. Stephen the Protomartyr, Longwood, FL, March 31, 2015



ABOVE & RIGHT The Emmanuel Family make their first Pilgrimage to the Shrine





Archon Dr. Manuel N Tissura and wife Elaine, pictured with Daughters of Penelope Grand President Anna-Helene Grossomanides and her husband, AHEPA Past Supreme President, Archon Dr. John Grossomanides



John Grossomanides, Archon Shrine Trustee Philip Yamalis, Irene Koulianos with V. Rev. Father Joseph Samaan at the AHEPA New Smyrna Memorial commemorating the New Smyrna Colonists and Shrine Founders



Saturday Trustees Dinner at Porto-Fino Restaurant, Daytona Shores, FL



Keynote Speaker Nick Furriss with Archons



HCHC Ambassadors with their host parents, Connie and Jim Demetriou



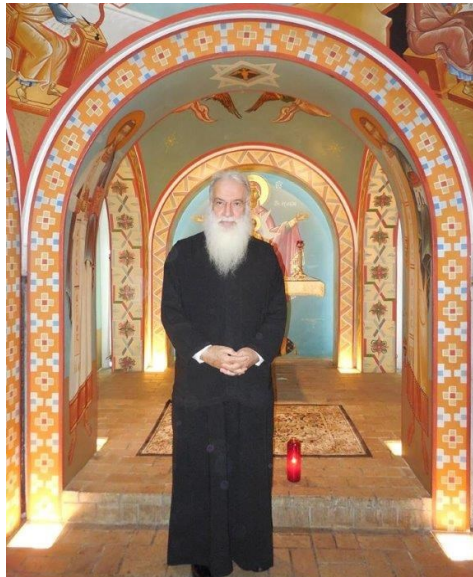
Founders family members - Nick and Janice Xynidis



Archon Trustee Harry and Olga Plomarity, Metropolis of Denver



Serbian Orthodox Christian Fellowship visitors during January 2015 First Friday Art Walk



His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios III of Kenya during his OCMC visit and stay with Father Martin and Presvytera Renee Ritsi visits the chapel of St. Photios.



Eric Johnson, director of Mission Nombre de Dios brings others serving Catholic shrines and sacred places to see the sacred site and learn about St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine



Carl Gill designating the Shrine as a Contestant in the Flowers for La Florida: 450th Beautification Campaign and Contest. A special THANK YOU to Lee Bicknell of MINUTEMAN LOCKSMITH for donating his time and materials for the flower boxes

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Special Shrine Exhibition - Early History of Greek

Orthodox Church in America

Dr. William and Dr. Regine Samonides, Curators



Pioneering Priests: Establishing the Greek Orthodox Faith in America, a special exhibition funded by The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund (Leadership 100), is on display now at the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. This exhibition honors the achievements of the early priests and hierarchs who helped establish the Greek Orthodox faith in America. It is intended to raise awareness of the pioneers of the faith who labored in trying circumstances for the churches that became part of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The Greeks were among the last groups to immigrate to this country, only arriving in considerable numbers from the 1890's. Like other immigrants, they were attracted by the prospect of jobs and a better life. Unlike other major religions in America, the Greek Orthodox faith was not established by design from abroad. Parishes were formed by adherents of the faith in America who felt the need for a church and sacrificed to establish one.

The exhibition touches on major issues and events that shaped the par-

ishes and the lives and careers of the pioneering priests. It also sheds new light on aspects of history that are often overlooked. A few of those featured in this exhibition had significant international careers. Others are well-known nationally. Some of the priests are remembered primarily in the parishes they served. Many others, especially those active before the establishment of the Archdiocese in the early 1920's, have been largely forgotten.

The Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is the Greek-American "Plymouth Rock," dedicated to the first colony of Greek people who came to America in 1768. Situated in historic Saint Augustine, this country's oldest city, the Shrine honors all Greek immigrants, so it is appropriate that it should host an exhibition that focuses on the contributions of the pioneering immigrant priests.



The exhibition was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos on February 6. The opening

and blessing were part of the 33rd Annual Pilgrimage and Feastday Celebration of the Shrine. Photographs of these events can be seen at www.jackiebird.com/stphotios using the password Greek41.

The exhibition was produced by guest curators Dr. William H. Samonides and Dr. Regine Johnson Samonides and is the product of more than a decade of research. On display are stories and photographs of the priests, their parishes and their times. The 61 priests currently featured represent 49 of the earliest parishes in the Archdiocese. Their stories are illustrated with over 100 photographs gathered from sources across America. Longer stories are told in 18 handouts, which visitors may take with them. These items now on display will be exhibited until September, when the second half of the exhibition will be installed and displayed until February 2016.

The exhibition is groundbreaking in several respects. It examines the history of the Greek Orthodox Church in America from the ground level, across parish lines through the lives and careers of priests, most of whom were immigrants. Except for a few books that focus on the history of the Hierarchy of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, writing about the growth of the Greek Orthodox faith in America has been in large part decentralized, with much of the work done by individual parishes. This exhibition brings together the photographic and documentary resources of the Archives of the Archdiocese with material obtained from parishes, relatives of the early priests, public libraries, and newspaper archives



across the country. The research underpinning the exhibition has uncovered information that illuminates previously obscure corners of the history of our faith in America.

One goal of the exhibition is to heighten awareness of the centennial anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 2021-22. The exhibition is expected to tour parishes and museums across the Archdiocese after it closes in Florida. For those interested in participating in subsequent exhibitions or in hosting the exhibition, contact the curators at 330-452-5162 or htgochistorian@aol.com.

This excerpt is taken from the January 2015 issue of the Orthodox Observer. Special thanks to Father Anastasios Gounaris who offered assistance to the authors.

"In December 1904, Mytilene-native **Father Methodios Kourkoulis** had been appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarch as priest to the St. Nicholas parish in Pittsburgh. When he arrived in New York, the board of trustees of Holy Trinity convinced him, with the consent of the Pittsburgh church, to remain instead in New York. Pittsburgh's loss would be Holy Trinity's gain. On December 14, 1904, Father Kourkoulis celebrated his first Liturgy at Holy Trinity.

"According to Peter Kourides, who knew him well, Father Kourkoulis "had an impressive presence. He had a beautiful resonant voice, and he officiated with ceremonial and imposing dignity. He was most articulate. His sermons were well prepared and delivered with stentorian eloquence.... To many of the Greek immigrants of 1904, he quickly became the heroic and majestic figure that they were painfully seeking in their new world. Immediately, Rev. Kourkoulis took total and complete control of the new edifice on East 74th Street. He quickly raised the money that was required to properly

and adequately decorate the interior of the new church. It was by far the handsomest Greek Orthodox church in the Americas in 1905.

"As beautiful as the church was said to have been in 1905, Father Kourkoulis had the interior decorations magnificently redone 15 years later. In the early 1920's, shortly after the establishment of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Alexander designated the church a cathedral. It would be the home of the Holy Trinity parish until January 1927, when it was destroyed in a spectacular fire.

"In 1938, the 72-year-old Father Kourkoulis was invested with the title of Grand Archimandrite of Constantinople, which gave him privileges at any Greek Orthodox monastery in the world. The honor was conferred by Ecumenical Patriarch Benjamin I, through Archbishop Athenagoras, head of the church in North and South America. At the time of Father Kourkoulis's death in April 1941, he had served Holy Trinity for 37 years, uniting parishioners and contributing significantly to the growth of the parish."

Alfred Funai Collection



icons Mr. Funai gifted to the Shrine over a 15 year period. The eleven icons received over the past year include Russian and Greek handwritten icons from the 18th and 19th centuries. Mr. Funai donated his Byzantine sacred art collection in memory of his beloved parents, Alfred and Lea Gancia Funai. Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos recalled the first trip to New York when Mr. Funai offered the first bequest; then with the assistance

of Shrine Chaplain, Father George Ioannou, blessed the permanent exhibit and thanked Carol and Kara, Mr. Funai's sister and niece, for supporting this blessing and being in attendance. Other sacred art was received in memory of Athanasios Stavros Klidonas and Dimitri Savoulides. May their memory be eternal.



Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat

What beauty there is in long-term, loving partnerships. Think of a couple whom you admire; bring to mind civic events with cultural and spiritual roots like the annual 25th of March parades held throughout the country, these examples are blessed with divine gifts like grace and fortitude.

There is this kind of beautiful, long term partnership between Philoptochos and the St. Photios Shrine. Each year, the Shrine encyclical sent to each parish from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, is a catalyst for Philoptochos to take a collection specifically for St. Photios. The result is an annual contribution of thousands of dollars gifted directly to the general operation of the Shrine, to witness Orthodox Christianity and share the Hellenic Culture, specifically remembering with honor and deep respect those 500 Greek settlers who came to America in 1768.



Many opportunities abound throughout the year to actively fulfill the Shrine mission and none more vibrant than the annual Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat undertaken in a loving partnership with the Shrine and the Sts. Anargyroi Philoptochos Chapter of St. John the Divine Church in Jacksonville, FL. On March 21st, for the first time in 5 years, the retreat was held offsite, at St. Justin the Martyr Orthodox Church in Jacksonville.

Spiritual advisor, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh opened the event with prayer and thoughts to reflect on throughout the day. Our host, pastor of St. Justin and spiritual confessor for the event, Reverend Ted Pisarchuk, made himself available for the sacrament of confession, concluding the day with Great Vespers.

Dr. Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis guided the 50 women in understanding and embracing the theme, *Praying with Soul, Mind and Body*. Many interactive breakout sessions supported the PowerPoint presentation. In addition, the morning prayer walk and a craft, Prayer Journaling, completed this day of joy and learning.

Sts. Anargyroi Philoptochos President, Pamela Toundas, thanked Ondreia Harden, parish liaison and retreat committee member of St. Justin for the generous hospitality offered to the committee and participants. She commended the participants for taking the time for themselves to join as sisters in Christ during this sacred Lenten period. She thanked the chairs who also underwrote all the needs for the day: Sandra Antonopoulos, Maria Pappas and GeeGee Angelopoulos. The feedback from the participants commended retreat leader, Dr. Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis, as an inspirational teacher with limitless spiritual gifts and knowledge. Her love for all was the means by which her lessons were received into the hearts of all.

Dr. Tsigas-Fotinis is the mother of Spyridoula and Emmanuel, and wife of Panagiotis Fotinis. She holds a Masters in Bilingual/Bicultural Education from St. John's University, two Masters and a Doctorate in Philosophy degrees in Educational Administration and Developmental Psychology from Teachers College and the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Columbia University.



The 2015 Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat at
St. Justin the Martyr OCA Church

Her energy knows no bounds! Her experience is vast, among which, she has taught Kindergarten through to adults, and has been an administrator in a number of public and private schools. She has been a Faculty member as Part-Time Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at Caldwell College since 2006.

In addition, Vasiliki and her family have started *The Greek Collection*, a collection of over 400 books and other media on Greek language, history, culture, and religion, at the **Morris County Public Library in Whippany, New Jersey**. She has also authored a children's book entitled: *The Jesus Prayer and Me* published by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Religious Education. It is available in the St. Photios Gift Shop Book Store.

Relics of the Shrine



Relics of the
St. Photios Shrine

As one enters the narthex of the Chapel of St. Photios, there is on the left side a case protecting a gold box. In that box are eighteen individual silver reliquaries with the remains of eighteen early saints of the Christian Church. This sacred box was presented to the Shrine by Archbishop Iakovos to house relics gifted by the V. Rev. Eugene Pappas in 1984. Obtained through the largess of the Vatican, each container is sealed with a Papal seal and accompanied by a document authenticating the relic enclosed.

Each relic is a tiny fragment of bone from the remains of the following Saints: Peter, Paul, Titus of Crete, Helena, Constantine, Savas, Anthony, John Chrysostom, Basil, Gregory of Nanzianzos, Gregory of Nyssa, Cyril of Alexandria, Cyril of Jerusalem, Nicholas, Athanasios, Ambrose, Haralambos, and John of Damascus. Relics of holy persons revered as Saints are venerated by Orthodox faithful in remembrance of the holy lives of those persons or for their great contributions to the expansion and development of Christianity throughout the centuries. Intercessory prayers to these holy people have resulted in innumerable miracles, such as restoration to health from seemingly incurable afflictions or deliverance from the ravages of storms, persecution, etc.

The St. Photios Shrine, commemorated to the first colony of Greeks to settle on this continent, is the first National Shrine of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. As such, it was deemed the appropriate place for these precious relics. In 2008, the youth and the parents of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, NC, raised the monies

needed to safely share the relics in a place of permanence. Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Shrine director emeritus, with Shrine architect, Ted Pappas of Jacksonville, FL, submitted a design and plans for a secure case to be fabricated to Ed Brown Associates. The relics were for the first time since 1984, available to the faithful for veneration in a permanent and appropriate space.

In August, 2014, the case was vandalized. Someone sprayed a DEET based chemical on it and handled it in such a way that the case was cracked but not broken through. The following Sunday, Jacob Sheppard was visiting the Shrine with his fiancé, Dr Katrina Backus. Jacob and Katrina are parishioners at Holy Trinity in Maitland, FL. Upon seeing the desecrated case, they committed to replacing it. Ed Brown Associates were contacted and within 4 weeks, the reliquary was restored under a new case.



Jacob Sheppard and Dr. Katrina Backus, with
parents in the Shrine Constantine Sisters
Courtyard

The relics continue to bless all of us and the Foundation Board of Trustees are grateful to the generosity of many who insured that this holy vessel would be available here at St Photios. We recognize the generosity of the parishioners of Three Hierarchs in Brooklyn, NY, who supported Father Eugene in the initial endeavor. We are grateful to God for Father Michael Varvarelis who upon handling the relics for his students to venerate, encouraged them and their

parents to raise the funds needed to house the relics safely, and finally for Jacob and Katrina whose love for the Shrine and deep respect and regard of the 18 saints, inspired them to right a wrong and insure that the reliquary would continue to be available for all to venerate.



Gratitude to Ed Brown Associates for replacing the damaged reliquary cover

**Come Celebrate Greek Landing
Day in conjunction with
St. Augustine's 450th
Commemoration of the Founding
of America's Oldest City**

**September
4th & 5th,
2015**

Fifty years ago, the



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America purchased the Averro House property at 41 St. George Street in St. Augustine, FL. Seventeen years later, The St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine opened with an active ministry to witness Orthodox Christianity, share Hellenic culture and to commemorate the sacrifice of 500 Orthodox Christians who came to the New World in 1768 for a chance to obtain freedom and opportunity. We celebrate the colonists and their epic journey every year at Greek Landing Day!

We invite you to join the parish of St. John the Divine as they chair Greek Landing Day events on Friday and Saturday, September 4 and 5, 2015 at St. Photios Shrine.

Wall of Tribute

When the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine opened its doors on February 27, 1982, a dream came true for all Greek Americans. To honor the Shrine's many faithful supporters, The St. Photios Foundation has set aside the special wall in tribute to them. Fittingly it is called "The Wall of Tribute."

We can be proud of the tremendous achievement the 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. 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 ask that you 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 honor you by placing your name or the names of others you wish to honor in perpetuity, either living or in memorial, on The Wall of Tribute which is located just outside the beautiful St. Photios Chapel.

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

Yes, I would like my name or the name of a loved one on the Wall of Tribute

Contact us for various payment options. Please be sure to fill out this entire portion with the correct spelling of name(s) to appear on the wall.



\$2,000 for the first two lines



\$500 for each additional line

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

(each line is limited to 30 characters)

Shrine Essay Contest News



The Foundation congratulates the winners of the 2014 Essay Contest: Eleni Ouzts, parishioner of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC, placed first;

Thomas Kouttron of St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church in Greenlawn, NY, placed second; and Emmanuel Stamatogiannakis of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, FL, placed third.

Pictured is Emmanuel with his parents, Alix and Nick, at the St. Photios Feastday Banquet where Emmanuel honored his father by reading aloud his winning essay. Essay committee member, Renee Constant Gahagan told the attendees, "the regard that this young man has for his father is one of such deep respect and understanding. Axios Emmanuel. Axios Niko."

House of Worship Tour

St. Photios Greek Orthodox Shrine welcomed guests on St. Augustine's Thirteenth Annual Houses of Worship Self-Guided Walking Tour. The annual event, held this year on the afternoon of Sunday, February 8, 2015, welcomed



Looking at the St. Photios cross on display is local author Skye Taylor, with Jim and Jenny Harker.

locals and tourists alike to 13 downtown houses of worship. This free event, sponsored by Grace United Methodist Church, organizes a free shuttle between locations by Old Town Trolley Tours (*The Green Trolley*), that you can board at any of the 13 sites. Illustrated maps are available featuring historical and architectural information about each site. Hosts at each location enhance the visitor experience. This year Shrine volunteer Jim Harker joined his wife, museum docent Jenny Harker, and they shared the Shrine's story which dates back to the 1760s. Refreshments were available to the 500+ guests who visited the Shrine that afternoon, many of them for the first time.

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine
Presents



ST PHOTIOS
GIFT SHOP
& BOOK STORE



Shopping
Just Got Easier,
Place your order
through our online kiosk!

- ◊ ICONS
- ◊ CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- ◊ FINE JEWELRY
- ◊ SPECIALTY SHOP
- ◊ INCENSE
- ◊ RELIGIOUS SUPPLIES

All proceeds support the ministry of St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

<http://www.shop.StPhotios.org>

Gift Shop Book Store

One of the many jewelry artists featured in the gift shop is Paul Angelopoulos of Jacksonville, FL, who brings a unique set of design skills developed in Greece from master jewelers. Paul uses his knowledge of ancient techniques from an artistic tradition that goes back over two thousand years. His original designs begin as a drawing and develop with the client into a unique creation. The latest modern technology is also used in the design and crafting process. Paul created the St Photios Cross in gold and silver as well as unique crosses that are carried in limited availability throughout the year at the Shrine Gift Shop. These crosses can be purchased online at www.shop.stphotios.org.



PAVLOS
JEWELRY DESIGN

May Their Memory Be Eternal



On January 14, 2015, Rev. Dn. Michael I. Koloniotis, beloved husband of 37 years to Diakonissa Karen Koloniotis, fell asleep in the Lord. He is also survived by his mother, Ioulia Koloniotis, his brother, Costas (Marina), his niece, Ioulia, and his nephew, Yianni. Beloved Dn. Michael was born in Halkida, Greece where he served in the Hellenic Navy for two and a half years. In 1976, he moved to Jacksonville in order to give his family a better life in Greece. He graduated from the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

diaconate study program in 2012. He was ordained to the Diaconate on February 2, 2013 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in St. Augustine by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios and served his first Sunday Divine Liturgy in the St. Photios Chapel. Deacon Michael was a dear friend of the Shrine, who prior to serving as a deacon in the Church, served as Protopsaltis at St. John, Jacksonville. May his memory be eternal! May God give rest to his soul and comfort to Diakonissa and all the family.

On March 30, 2014, Mr. Thomas J McGrath III, beloved husband of 7 years to Rose Papanickolas McGrath, fell asleep in the Lord. He was the wind beneath Metropolis of Boston Shrine Trustee Rose's wings as she served on the Foundation of St. Photios National Shrine. Tom enjoyed playing golf, reading the Wall Street Journal every morning, worshipping in both the Orthodox and Catholic churches and interesting conversations. Mr. McGrath was employed by the General Electric Corporation upon his graduation from Lehigh University in 1950 and continued working with GE and its subsidiary, Honeywell Information Systems. He is also survived by daughter Dr.

Marinel D. McGrath and her husband Gary Oakes of Byfield, MA, Stephanie M. and Charles R. Corbo of Norwalk, CT, and Thomas J. McGrath IV and his wife Tracy of Ft. Pierce, FL, his grandchildren, Diana Corbo Carvajal and her husband Andres of Hollywood, F, Christopher R. Corbo of Norwalk, CT, Brian P. McGrath of Wellesley, MA, Emily E. McGrath of NY, and the Papanickolas Family of Peabody, Emmanuel N. and his wife Georgia, Crystal Catina Papanickolas, Nicholas E. and Kristin Papanickolas, Angelia "Lia" Rose Papanickolas and Emmanuel "Mikey" Papanickolas. May his memory be eternal and may God



give rest to his soul and comfort to Rose and all the family.

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