

Commemorating The Fall of Constantinople
SAINT PHOTIOS GREEK ORTHODOX NATIONAL SHRINE
2023 DRAWING COMPETITION
The Theodosion Walls – The Walls of Constantinople

In conjunction with the annual commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople, the trustees of the Saint Photios Foundation invite children ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to participate in *The Third Annual Drawing Contest*. This is an opportunity to learn about the Fall of Constantinople which marked the end of the 1000-year reign of the Byzantine Empire.

Artists are asked to research this architectural marvel begun during the reign of Theodosius II in the early 5th century. Anthemius, who was Theodosius' *Praetorian Prefect* (prime minister) at the time, is credited with supervising this three tiered perimeter. Constructed over the course of nine years, extending from the Gold Gate, the wall continued for 4 miles, stretching across the peninsula from the Sea of Marmara to the Golden Horn, expanding on the work begun in the 4th century by Emperor Constantine I.

The walls were an effective defense line for 800 years. It was the largest and strongest barricade built in either the ancient or medieval worlds. Even Attila the Hun failed in conquering the "Queen of Cities". The moat in the first tier, the 96 towers, the sentries at the ten gates are just a few of the many elements that created this highly effective line of defense.

In 1453, the Empire came to an end when the Ottomans breached Constantinople's ancient land wall after besieging the city for 55 days. Sultan Mehmet II carried out the 8-week campaign, surrounding Constantinople from land and sea while employing cannon to maintain a constant barrage of the city's formidable walls. The Empire collapsed as the City was taken on May 29, 1453.

Participants will submit drawings of the Theodosion Walls – The Walls of Constantinople, the city's most impressive surviving monuments from antiquity in today's modern-day Istanbul, Turkey.

The St. Photios Foundation, Inc. is grateful to William, Pamela, and Michael Toundas who continue to underwrite this creative learning opportunity for our children in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

ELIGIBILITY:

This competition is open to all children ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. *There are no fees for participation.*

PRIZE:

One grand prize of \$250.00.

DUE DATE:

All submissions must be received at the Saint Photios Nation Shrine NO LATER THAN Friday, May 12, 2023, via email to: Polaxeni Maouris Hillier, Executive Director of St. Photios National Shrine at info@stphotios.com. The Winner will be announced on May 29, 2023. All submissions will become property of the Saint Photios National Shrine.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. One 2-dimensional drawing of *The Walls of Constantinople*, on 8 ½" by 11" paper (landscape/horizontal view).
2. The following media (or combination of media) may be used: crayon, marker, colored pencil, watercolor paint.
3. Two high-definition photographs of drawings; one of the drawing itself (alone), and one including the artist holding the original drawing.
4. Contact information including artist's name, age, home address, parish affiliation, and parent or guardian's email address. **Must be submitted with the Parental Authorization to Share Photo of Artist in Shrine Special Exhibit Area (attached)**



**St. Photios National Shrine Drawing Contest
Parental Authorization
to Share Photo of Artist in Shrine Special Exhibit Area**

I, (please print) _____ (parent/legal guardian)

authorize use of the photo of my child _____

(please print name of child in photograph) to be exhibited with my child's drawing from
May 25, 2023 – May 31, 2024 in the museum of St. Photios National Shrine.

This photo may also be used in print and media releases featuring articles concerning
the 2023 St. Photios National Shrine Drawing Contest.

Signature Parent (legal guardian)

Date of Authorization _____

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

PO BOX 1960 SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL 32085
Telephone: 904.829.8205 Fax: 904.829.8707
info@stphotios.com