

Friends

NEWSLETTER

St. Augustine, FL ~ Summer 2024

National Pilgrimage Feast Day 2024

"...The Shrine of St. Photios reminds each and every one of us that we also are called unto the apostleship of peace and love...let us take up its spiritual vision to not only remember a noble past, but also forge a better future for the whole world." Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, February 6, 2024

On February 3, 2024, trustees gathered for the St. Photios Foundation Annual meeting. Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, representing the Permanent Committee, presided over the meeting, led by Archon Anthony Megas who was unanimously voted the 1st Vice President of the Foundation, filling the void left by Archon Dr. Manuel Tissura, who was granted emeritus status the previous year.

Reports were read and decisions were made regarding the upcoming 3-year audit of the 2024 fiscal year. Archon Philip Yamalis presented the updated employee handbook, replacing the 2007 personnel manual. A request to convene for the 2025 meeting in person and by Zoom was approved for Saturday, February 1, 2025.

Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos joined Bishop Sevastianos of Zela for Great Vespers, the Blessing of the Wall of Tribute, and the Opening of the Special Exhibit, Archbishop Athenagoras of North and South America, 1931-1949, at the Shrine.

The Megas family chaired the Pilgrimage Banquet at the new Renaissance Hotel in Colonial St. Augustine. Dr. James C. Skedros, the Michael G. and Anastasia Cantonis Professor of Byzantine Studies and Professor of Early Christianity at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology gave the keynote address, "Archbishop Athenagoras of America, 1931

-1949: His Legacy Today", which can be seen in its entirety on the Shrine website or YouTube.

The evening ended with Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos bestowing gifts on behalf of the Foundation to the Hon. Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, Archon Nicholas Furris on behalf of his grandson Sam (Sotirios), Archon Dr. James Skedros and Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

Additional photos on page 6 & 7.

Right: Opening of the Athenagoras Exhibit Rev. Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis, Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos and Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

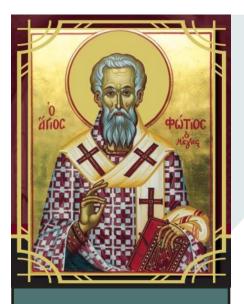


Trustees: Evangeline Mekras Scurtis, Maria Carantzas, Elaine Zetes, Joanne Stavrakas, Polexeni Maouris Hillier, Helen Carlos, Susan Loutsion, Olga Plomarity, Theodora Sergiou, Harry Cavalaris, Angelo Kliossis, Nicholas J. Furris, V. Rev. Maximos Politis, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Anthony Megas, V. Rev. Joseph Samaan, Tom Gibson, Philip Yamalis and Carl Hollister.



Great Vespers - Niko Megas assisting His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.





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Greek Landing Day 2024

After surviving the transatlantic crossing from Mahon, Menorca, 1290 individuals began their odyssean journey as indentured servants under the British Crown in the New World. After spending two full months at sea, seven of the eight ships arrived and were registered in St. Augustine, the capital of the East Florida province, located 75 miles north of



the ill-fated property that would later be named the New Smyrna Colony. The immigrants were recruited from Smyrna (Asia Minor), Arcadia and Mani (Peloponnese, Greece), and the islands of Santorini and Crete. They arrived with an unnamed Orthodox priest who subsequently drowned during the first rebellion in August 1768, and Father Pedro Camps, the humble Menorcan who joined his faithful in Mahon, ministering throughout their entire tenure all until his death in 1790.

The 256th anniversary of this Landing Day was observed on June 26, 2024, with a dual celebration. At 3:00 p.m. Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos, Bishop Anthony of Synada, V. Rev. Maximos Politis and Father Mac Hill held the Colonists' Memorial. Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline read the Mayoral Proclamation and Master of Ceremonies, Steve Xynidis remembered the Founders and presented the Hon. Ramelle Petroglou with a commemorative pin. Greetings were read from the Chairman of the St. Photios Foundation, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and President of the St. Photios Foundation, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, the National Ladies' Philoptochos Society, Leadership 100, and AHEPA. Members of the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Philoptochos offered hospitality on behalf of the St. Augustine parish of Holy Trinity.

The Greek Landing Day Banquet and lecture followed at St. John the Divine Church in Jacksonville, Florida. The St. Photios Foundation is grateful for all that was provided by the community and especially Tom Gibson, parish council president, Mark and Effie Lasoff, Sts Anargyroi Philoptochos Chapter president, for serving as the Greek Landing Day Festival General Chairpersons.

His Grace Bishop Anthony of Synada inspired the faithful with his keynote address, "Finding Our Voice, What Will We Say." This lecture continues to highlight the legacy of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I ministry when serving as prelate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (1931-1949). Spectrum Films provided a live presentation, which is available to view at www.stphotios.org.

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

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 search of a better life.

41 St. George Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084 Tel - 904.829.8205 ~ info@stphotios.com ~ www.stphotios.org

St. Photios Youth Programs

4th Annual Drawing Contest

The ranking of the twelve submissions by judges Laura Mongiovi, Carol Pappas, and Theodora Sergiou resulted in Irene Shizas winning the \$250.00 prize. Irene is a 12-year-old who attends St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton, NJ. Congratulations to Irene and to all the participants and their parents: Sophia Bournelis of Canton, OH, Sofia Danforth of Byron, GA, Sofia Forcella of Tarpon Springs, FL, Maria Gavras of Moorestown, NJ, Despoina Mandikou of Flushing, NY, siblings Melody and Gerry Mastrokalos of Astoria, NY, Sophia Miliotis of Astoria, NY, Valentina Stabile of Cherry Hill, NJ, Theodora Tsiplakos of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, and Haris Tsoplakis of Mullica Hill, NJ. The Trustees are grateful to William, Pamela, and Michael Toundas of Jacksonville, FL, who have underwritten the entire cost of this project for the past four years.



2023 Kathie D'Anna Memorial Essay Contest

The 2023 Kathie D'Anna Memorial Essay Contest theme asked teens to share the importance of maintaining one's ethnic, cultural, and religious heritage in multicultural America.

Submissions were received in the senior division from Athanasios and Klearchos Angouras of St. Katherine, Redondo Beach, CA; Nicholas Ferrari of St. George, Manchester, NH; Kassiani Efthymiou Harris of St. Nicholas, Wilmington, NC; Sophia Karampelas of Holy Transfiguration, Marietta, GA; Maria Katsadas of Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Aliquippa, PA; Lydia Kentis of the Annunciation, Miami, FL; Photini Qarmout of Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lancaster, CA; Stavroula Tomadakis and Michelle Voicu of St. Mark, Boca Raton, FL. Judges found merit in all the essays with the highest points ranking Athanasios Angouras of Redondo, CA to first place.

Submissions were received in the junior division from Gabriella Mallias of St. Demetrios, Rocky River, OH; Vasiliki Pasvantis of St. Mark, Boca Raton, FL; Noelia Spentzos of St. Nicholas, Corpus Christi, TX, Judges found merit in all the essays with the highest points ranking Noelia Spentzos of Corpus Christi, TX to first place.

Committee chair Dianna Christakos commented, "Festivals and dancing have their place in the lives of these young people. It was enjoyable to see mention of the classics which of course predate our religion but give our "culture" deeper meaning." This opportunity is open to all teenagers 13-19 with two divisions. The winner of each division is awarded \$1,000.00 through the Kathie D'Anna Charitable Foundation.

Metropolitan Iakovos Memorial Greek Essay Contest



Demetra Manaris, a 14-year-old from Dix Hills, New York, is recognized for her exemplary submission to the 2024 Metropolitan Iakovos Memorial Greek Language Scholarship Essay contest. The contest was organized by the Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine with the assistance of Athina Filippou-Katehis of the Archdiocesan Greek Education Department. The Shrine essay contests are open to individuals between the ages of 13 and 19 years of age.

The topic of the 2024 Greek language essay was: "It is often difficult to maintain our ethnic, cultural, and religious heritage in this multicultural environment, which is America. How important is this to you and your family? How do you plan to keep your religion and culture alive and well, both now and in the future?" Mrs. Dianna Christakos, the chair of the St.

Photios National Shrine Essay Contest, commented on Demetra's essay, "Impressive language for a 14-year-old Greek-American child. The essay is well-written, with excellent grammar and structure. Demetra's writing style is similar to that of a college student. Her involvement in the Greek culture is noteworthy and deserving of high praise."

Many Years!

We join the faithful in congratulating our shepherd, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, on the celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of his election as prelate to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, an eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. *God grant him many years!*

Charitable Giving Opportunities by Carl Hollister

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9:7



The Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is a true treasure for us all and worthy of our collective support. We can

support the Shrine and its mission in many ways and ensure that the Shrine is sustained in perpetuity. On our website under "Opportunities" you can scroll down to "Ways to Give".

We would like to highlight "Ways to Give". Through Estate Planning you can establish gifts and bequests through your Will, Trust, Life Insurance, or a Qualified Retirement Account such as a Traditional or ROTH IRA. In any of the above four instruments, you can make the St. Photios Foundation Inc. a designated beneficiary for any portion of your residual estate. There

are more ways to give for estate planning purposes which we can discuss further at your request.

While we are on this earth, we have additional means of contributing to the Foundation. The gifting of **appreciated securities or real estate** provides a tax deduction on a pretax basis. When you write a check to the Foundation those funds are out of your after-tax resources. For those of us over the age of 70.5 years young we have the ability to use our **RMDs** (required minimum distributions) to make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution** directly from our IRAs. The amount given by way of QCD directly to the Foundation **will avoid taxes and limit your adjusted gross income** which can be very advantageous to minimize federal and state income taxes. An additional opportunity where you can benefit the Foundation, as well as you personally, is through the establishment of a Charitable Gift Annuity.

Shrine legacy donors wishing to plan a charitable bequest can visit https://stphotios.org/ways-to-give/ or call the Shrine directly at 904-829-8205.

St. Photios Gift Shop and Book Store

Find unique gift items, icons, and books on Orthodox Christianity and Greek American history at the St. Photios Gift Shop and Book Store. We now carry the Panagopoulos book, New Smyrna Colony: An Eighteenth Century Odyssey, in English and Greek.

Congratulations to our very own Father Nick and Presvytera Roxanne, two Ph.D. Authors who follow up their previous book, <u>Renewing You: A Priest, A Psychologist and a Plan</u> with <u>6 Hours, 7 Lessons</u>. The authors' reflections offer insight and clarity for the reader as the book explores the relevance of the last words of Christ at His Crucifixion. This book is available to ship at book rate.



Inventory changes according to season and many new items are available as the summer approaches. When in St. Augustine, it is a perfect place to find the perfect gift for any occasion.



Kathara Deftera Kite Flying



Senior Sunday School students and chaperones from Holy Trinity Charlotte, NC



Tampa School of Greek Language and Culture



AHEPA Supreme
President Savas Tsivicos and Supreme
Treasurer, Demetrios Kirkiles visit with
AHEPA Executive Director, Basil
Mossaidis



Stavronikitas, Kristen Karavantos-Love and Elias Damianakis



Pilgrims from Holy Cross, Macon, GA



For the first time in its 16-year history, members of the Kyklos Centre of Traditional Dance Studies made a pilgrimage to St. Photios Shrine. Teacher Kyriakos Moysidis and 30 members were in the States for the Metropolis of Atlanta Hellenic Dance Federation's Imagine Festival. Many served as judges and all performed multiple sets during the January weekend.

St. Photios National Shrine Church Supplies

National Shrine Church Supplies (NSCS) was established to help the St. Photios National Shrine become a self-sustaining institution of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by accessing high quality ecclesiastical products for churches throughout America, at competitive prices.

NSCS offers a diverse selection of candle sizes and types at the best price available. All proceeds from purchases aid in maintaining this sacred and historic National Shrine. Visit our online store at: $\frac{\text{https://stphotios.org/shop/}}{\text{stphotios.org/shop/}}$ or place an order with Shrine Manager, Gina Bingman, Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:00 at 904-829-8205 or by emailing her at $\frac{\text{churchsupplies@stphotios.com}}{\text{stphotios.com}}$.





Bishop Sevastianos of Zela offering greetings from Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta



L-R: V. Rev. Nicholas Louh, Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Dr. James Skedros and Archon Anthony Megas



St. Photios Foundation First Vice President Archon Anthony Megas



Tom Gibson (St John), Emcee Archon Nicholas Furris, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, V. Rev. Joseph Samaan and Ron Hilliard



Pres. Renee and Father Martin Ritsi, V. Rev. Joseph Samaan, Father Sebastian Mot, Rev. Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis and V. Rev. Maximos Politis



Hon. Mayor Nancy Sikes Kline and Keynote Speaker Dr. James Skedros



Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela and V. Rev. Joseph Samaan



Polexeni Maouris Hillier and His Eminence Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos



Helen Carols reading greetings on behalf of Jim Logothetis, Chairman of Leadership 100



Master of Ceremonies Archon Nicholas Furris



Archon Carl Hollister



Blessing of the Wall of Tribute



Dr. Nicholas and wife Jennifer Trastelis of St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, FL



Olga Plomarity of St. Nicholas, Corpus Christi, Texas



Mark and Effie Lasoff of St. John the Divine, Jacksonville, FL



Archons Philip Yamalis and Harry Tom Cavalaris



Allan John Hillier



Joanne Stavrakas reading greetings on behalf of Arlene Siavelis-Kehl, President of the National Ladies Philoptochos Society



Greetings offered by Mayor of St. Augustine, the Hon. Nancy Sikes-Kline



Attending Great Vespers



Chanters Archon Phillip Yamalis and Archon Nicholas Loutsion

Lighting a Candle for You on Behalf of Your Loved Ones

The Light A Candle Ministry of the first National Shrine of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has touched the lives of hundreds, those who donate and those who are acknowledged. Consider the act of lighting a candle on someone's behalf during the year, or perhaps request to have a memorial candle lit with prayers offered on a Saturday of Souls. Prayer is our universal connection, offering praise to God and His Glory, seeking His strength and support, expressing gratitude for His Benevolence, and humbly asking for forgiveness. Please consider sharing this beautiful program our Shrine offers to all. There is not a more kind and thoughtful gesture to remember loved ones, family and friends.





Farewell Fr. Joseph and Fr. Sebastian

"Living a life in Christ with love that manifests itself in all one meets is unique to every individual whether an introvert or extrovert. This enthusiasm calls others to serve God and humanity intensely and sacrificially with a committed interest in people and their welfare."

We all pray for all good things for Father Sebastian Mot and V. Rev. Father Joseph Samaan as they begin the next chapter in their ministries.



Father Sebastian Mot, United States Navy Chaplain Corps

Father Sebastian served as the second priest under Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh at St. John the Divine in Jackson-ville for five years. We are grateful for all the services and programs Father Sebastian presided over or assisted with at our National Shrine. It was an honor to join his parish on April 28th for a special Palm Sunday luncheon, where we reminisced through photos and music. On April 28, His Grace Bishop Sebastian of Zela presided over the ecclesiastical services and reception while heartfelt wishes were extended to Fr. Sebastian and Presbytera Niki as their journey with the United States Navy Chaplain Corps began the following day.

Shrine trustee, Father Joseph, served the Foundation for



Shrine Executive Director, Polly Hillier with V. Rev. Father Joseph Samaan at St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, FL.



Father Joseph and members of the Farewell Committee on June 2

16 years, many years as chaplain of the St. Photios Chapel. He was the spiritual advisor to the Light A Candle program. He inspired his parishioners to work closely with the area's sister parishes in providing Shrine hospitality and fundraising throughout the years. The rich liturgical life he lives with a strong commitment to service within a spirit of humility are cornerstones of his leadership style. His generosity knows no bounds. We wish Father all the best as he takes the helm of the Communications Department at the Antiochian Archdiocese of America in New Jersey.

Friends of St. Photios Shrine

In 2023, 115 individuals were Friends of the Shrine. The Trustees of St. Photios Foundation will strive to dramatically increase the number of members counted among the *Friends 2024* program. Father Panteleimon Dalianis, spiritual advisor and committee chair, Joanne Stavrakas, have dedicated themselves to this vital Foundation Ministry.



Friends of St. Photios: Nick and Phil Nichols of Savannah, GA and Thomas and Pelagia Lekas of St. Augustine, FL

The membership drive began officially on October 1, 2023. It will be the highlight of the Shrine booth at the 47th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in San Diego, CA.

Friends of Saint Photios support the witness of the first Greeks who came to the New World. Friends of St. Photios insure the daily witness of the Shrine mission and events that include Pilgrimage weekend, Greek Landing Day, and the Christmas Open House. Friends of St. Photios glorify Christ and Christ's Church while raising awareness of the Orthodox faith, Hellenic culture and U.S. immigration history.

This is your Shrine - a popular place for family reunions, a place to book a personal event, a wonderful retreat venue and a lovely setting for a small destination wedding.

Friends receive the annual newsletter and updates via email and receive 10% off purchases made in the gift shop bookstore.

The Family Registry Project at St. Photios

This project has been an interesting and engaging program at the Shrine. Usually, information is submitted by participants of the Friends or Wall of Tribute ministries. These individuals ask that their family history and photos be added to the Shrine archives. This family file is opened due to a casual exchange with a visitor in the giftshop bookstore. Enjoy the photos!

My mother, Ellen Teros Crampton, was 86 when she fell asleep in the Lord and was interred with my father, Jack, on December 4, 2003, in the National Cemetery, Arsenal Island, Rock Island, Illinois.

Ellen was born May 7, 1917, in Davenport, Iowa to William and Eftihia Sacopoulos Teros. She married my father on December 18, 1944, in Milan, Illinois. Dad passed away on December 4, 1986.

She was a wonderful mother and grandmother. I am so proud of my Greek heritage and the work ethic instilled in me by my mother, she was a hard-working employee for the state of Illinois, retiring from the former East Moline State Hospital as a dietary supervisor.



The Wedding of William and Eftihia Sacopoulos Teros

My grandfather, William Teros was born in Thanos, Greece in 1875, he was the 1st Greek immigrant to enter the Iowa



Wedding reception of William and Eftihia Sacopoulos Teros

census. He met and married my grandmother in Davenport in May, 1911. He passed away in 1950, a successful entrepreneur known mostly for the Arcade Bowling Alley. He was a member of St. George in Moline, Illinois and a charter member of the Eagles and AHEPA. My grandparents had seven children, a son and six daughters.

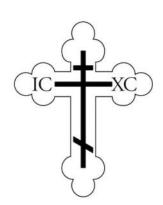
From these beginnings, I knew I wanted to build something for myself and not for someone else. I was able to take that entrepreneurial spirit that made my grandfather rise in his community and use it to drive my life. I owned 3 health clubs in the area where my grandparents settled and now own a marketing business with my wife Colleen in Florida.

We live in Holiday, Florida, just north of Tarpon Springs, a very large Greek community. We enjoy being so close to all the great Greek restaurants, festivals, and events. I keep these pictures of my grandparents on my phone to show where the American journey started for them. I love the expressions I get from people that I share them with. I'm proud of my father's side too, but my Greek heritage seems to dominate who I am and who I'm proud to be. PETE CRAMPTON, May 30, 2024

To include your family history and photos in the Archives of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, please contact Polly Hillier at 904-829-8205.

In Memoriam

At the age of 101 years and 8 months, Anna Chaconas was received by the Lord in excellent health. She loved her family, her Church and the Shrine. She enjoyed a good phone call and all correspondence. Her daughter Marianne Chaconas and son in law, Douglas W. Charnas, sponsor this newsletter in her memory. With joy Marianne recalls the family visit to St. Augustine 30 years ago, inspiring them all to remain steadfast stewards of this Shrine to date.



Lee Carantza, an original Shrine Committee member with husband George Carantza (+), fell asleep in the Lord on May 19, 2024 at the age of 97. Lee was a strong advocate for the Shrine over the past three generations. Her son Peter, served on the St. Photios Foundation for many years and her daughter in law Betty, hosted many Shrine receptions over the past decade while presiding over

her Philoptochos Chapter. Shrine volunteer, Ellen Sarris Allen, fell asleep in the Lord on June 9, 2024. Well done faithful servants, you served as vibrant ambassadors of the culture and faith of our forefathers, ever witnessing the immigrants' history. Memory eternal.

God give rest to the souls of the departed friends and family members of the Shrine Family: Trustee Emeritus Archon Harry George Plomarity (11/9/23); Archon Basilios Theodosakis (10/29/23), John (3/11/2023) and Frances Hadjilogiou (3/16/2024) - original members of the Shrine Education Committee under Bishop John of Amorion of blessed memory.



Remembering steadfast friends of St. Photios, grandchildren of Rev. Father Gregory Eliades, who fell asleep in the Lord last year. Siblings Bethania (02/22/23) and Nicholas Gregory (08/01/23) and their cousin, Ann Mulopulos (12/28/2023).

Left: Father Gregory and family,: provided by Elizabeth Gregory Bisbikis

Back Row: Ann Savas Mulopulos, William and Sophia Gregory (parents of Beth and Nick), Sophia Gregory and Azaria Savas (parents of Ann)

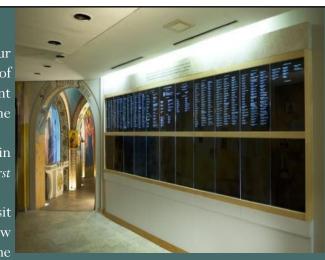
Second Row: Nick Gregory, Bethania Gregory, Father Gregory Eliades, a friend of the family, Evanthia Savas (Samra). First Row: Elizabeth Gregory (Bisbikis), Savva Savvas

Wall of Tribute by Nicholas Furris

On behalf of the Foundation, I invite you to consider honoring your family, parish, organization, on the special donor wall. The Wall of Tribute subscription is \$2,000 for two lines, \$500 for each subsequent line. We aspire that every trustee will join us in donating to the Shrine through this ministry.

The goal of Archbishop Iakovos was for participation from every parish in the Archdiocese. Has your parish met this goal to witness its support of the first National shrine of our Archdiocese?

Payment can be made in full or over the course of five years. Visit https://stphotios.org/wall-of-tribute/. Your gift not only helps grow and enhance our efforts, but you also become an integral part in the perpetual mission, life, and work of our National Shrine.



Shrine Visitors from Near and Far

In February we welcomed Father Damaskinos Kemal and parishioners from St. George Antiochian Church in Jacksonville with His Eminence, the Most Reverend Saba Isper, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

It was a privilege to host His Eminence Metropolitan Myron of New Zealand and Oceania, Father Meletios Pantic, Abbot of the Sacred Monastery of the Holy Archangels in New Zealand, and Father Paul Patitsas.

Shrine pilgrimages were made this spring to St. Augustine by parishioners of Holy Cross, Macon, GA, (May), and the

Senior Sunday School Classes of Holy Trinity Cathedral (March) and St. Nektarios (June) from Charlotte, NC.

Victor and Naomi, newly illumined in the faith, visited from St. Elizabeth Gainesville. Father and Presvytera Paul Meyernick visited the week before and during Great and Holy Lent, James Sheehan from the University of Florida, OCF, Gainesville, FL made a pilgrimage to the Shrine with 20 students. Shrine Chaplain, V. Rev. Father Maximos Politis lead them in the Sixth Hours





Metropolitan Saba of Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, Father Damaskinos Kemal



Evgenia and Gus Kyriakides ~ Gus' parents were married at the Archdiocesan Cathedral by His All Holiness when he served as Archbishop Athenagoras of N. and S. America.



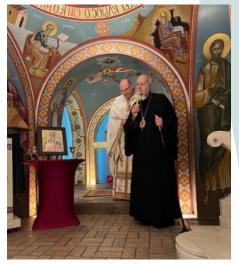
Members of the Philoptochos St. Barbara Sarasota, FL visit with Maria Kirlangitis



Pilgrims from Holy Cross, Macon, GA, with V. Rev. Maximos Politis, Shrine Chaplain



Victor and Naomi, newly illumined in the faith, visited from St. Elizabeth, Gainesville, FL.



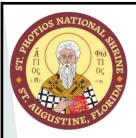
Trustee Rev Father Dimitrios Moraitis celebrated the Feast of St. Photios with His Eminence, Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos



Solomon Siyoum and members of St. Gabriel Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL



Poetry readings with Ann Browning Masters and Lola Haskell



St. Photios Foundation Inc.

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Fr. Alex Kamilaris, Pastor

Dino Paspalakis, Parish Council President

St. John the Divine Church, Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh, Pastor Tom Gibson, Parish Council President