

# 40th Anniversary Exhibit

The St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine hosted the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration exhibit thanks to a grant from the The Kathie D'Anna Charitable Fund.

This unique Exhibit, commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first National Shrine of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, commenced February 27, 2022 will remain open to the public until February 27, 2023.

In conjunction with this exhibit, the St. Photios National Shrine has produced a 10-minute documentary specifically showcasing the 40 year history of the Shrine. Played continuously at the Shrine's exhibit in honor of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary housed in St. Augustine, Florida, may also be viewed on the St. Photios Facebook Page at <https://fb.watch/c4BOQXFjyE/> Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory presided over the dedication on February 27, 1982, stating, "This Shrine is dedicated to those who came here 414 years ago in search of freedom and to escape the most barbaric oppression, and for the contribution they made to our country." His Eminence, before entering the Shrine, unveiled a plaque that pays tribute to the first colony of Greek refugees who worshiped here in 1777.

In 1768 nearly 500 Greeks with 900 others of Mediterranean descent left their homelands and established the New Smyrna Colony in hopes of a better life. Just a little over 400 of these indentured servants survived after a decade of brutal treatment that followed.

They escaped to St. Augustine, America's oldest city, and it was here, in the Averro House which is the current site of the Shrine, that they found refuge.

