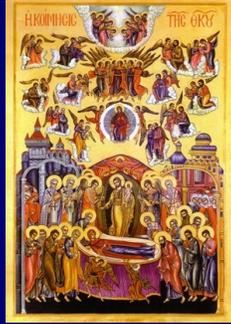


## CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest: Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- Parish Council President: Jim (Demetrios) Katsiitis
- Philoptochos President: Eleni Giakoumopoulos
- Sunday School Directors: Susu Saba & Peli Galiti
- Greek School: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

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# The Message

OCTOBER 2021

## ALL HALLOWS EVE

Children from all around the United States are slowly being whipped into frenzy for what many of them consider their favorite time of the year. At the same time, parents are getting prepared for the inevitable sugar high that will be sweeping the nation on October 31st. That's right, Halloween is coming. When I was growing up, Halloween was something I always look forward to as well, but not because of the getting dressed up, or the enormous amounts of candy (all though I did not complain). It was because it was a night when I got to go spend time with my friends and have fun. But alas, I have grown up and now find myself in a particularly difficult position. As I have progressed in my faith and study of Orthodoxy through out the years, I have come to learn some of darker secrets of Halloween. These secrets are known to few but have put Halloween in a new light for me. There is a lot of disagreement among the histories I have read on the meanings of some of the traditions, but everyone agrees that Halloween originated from an ancient druid festival. The Druids were from ancient Ireland and England, before the time of Christ, and were there leaders of a certain Pagan religion. Halloween was a festival that was celebrating the New Year for them, and they believed that during this time the spirits of the dead were closer to this world, and thus they would pay homage to the dead. A lot of people disagree about the particular customs of the day in ancient times, and how many of those have carried over to today, so I will leave a discussion of them out. However, this much must be said: as Orthodox we do not believe that the spirit of our loved ones who have passed away remains on earth, but rather that they have moved on to the new life, either with or without God.

We must be vigilant, and if our children are going out for Halloween, we need to be sure that their dress is not paying homage to the demonic forces within the world. Why do we allow children to dress as demons, devils, witches, and warlocks? By doing so, we mock God because we know that these figures represent what we, as Christians need to fight against. Many will say it is harmless as it is all in "good fun", but they fail to realize the power these images can reflect onto a child. Instead of teaching them the power of Christ, we teach them the worldly powers of witches and goblins by glorifying them on Halloween. God said in Exodus "We shall have no other God, but Him", yet we allow our children to hold these fictional beings to a God-like status. We as Orthodox Christians need to instill in our youth, the importance of God. Christ gives us the ultimate example of this be coming into the world and through Him we all have the opportunity for eternal life. Quoting one of the most well-known Bible verses, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so whomever believes in Him will not perish, but rather gain eternal life" (John 3:16). Take the time this October to explain to your children the importance of not getting carried away with the hoopla known as Halloween, but still allow them to enjoy the festivities. Teach them to stand firm and strong within their faith in God. There are numerous costumes to choose from to allow our children to go out and have a great night. God Bless.

*Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos*

# PARISH OUTING TO TREINEN FARM



**Come Join us at Assumption for a parish youth night out at Treinen Farms & Pumpkin Patch for an evening of fun Fall Activities for adults & Children of all ages. Treinen Farm is home of one of the 10 ten Corn Mazes in the country. Here is a list of just some of the activities that families can do while visiting.**

Schrödinger's Cat and Other Thought Experiments 15 acre Corn Maze, Children's Maze and Farm Funnies Game, String Theory Maze, Barnyard Animals, Molehill Mountain Adventure Slides and Cave, Natural Play Area, Haymow Hayfort and Spider Webs, Walking and hiking areas, Enchanted Woods, Little Farmer Area, Silo-phone, Silo Climbing Wall, Ice Age Boulders Climber, Picnic areas, Tractor Tire Playground, Gaga Ball, Duck Races, Pumpkin Day Care, Visit our three pumpkin patches and even pick out a pumpkin to bring home.

**We will also try and reserve a bonfire pit for our group where we can make hotdogs, s'mores and hot Chocolate.**

**Cost for this event is \$16.00 and includes all you can eat hot dogs and s'mores. Children under 2 are free.**

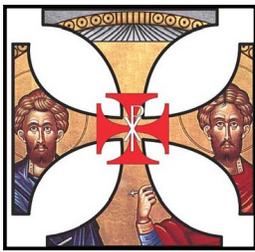
**Treinen Farm is located in Lodi about a 30 min drive from the church.**



**Please RSVP with Fr. Christodoulos by Thursday, October 21st if you are interested in attending.**

# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>5th Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sunday School/Greek School</p>					<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Strict Fast</p> <p>Holy Protection of the Theotokos</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sunday School/Greek School</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Strict Fast</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
<b>Fr. Christodoulos at Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference</b>						
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sunday School/Greek School</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Strict Fast</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Russian Mission Service</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
<b>Fr. Christodoulos at the National Presbyters Retreat</b>						
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sunday School/Greek School.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Strict Fast</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Saint Iakovos the Apostle &amp; brother of our Lord</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>6th Sunday of Luke</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Sunday School/Greek School</p> <p>Parish Outing to Treinen Farm 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Strict Fast Day</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Great Vespers</p>
<b>Patriarchal Visit by His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, South Bend, IN</b>						



# FOCUS ON PHILOTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

## PHILOTOCHOS NEWS October 2021

#PhiloCares

We look forward to continuing our work together again for 2021-2022. Thank you again for your support to all our fundraising efforts (virtual and in person). If you are interested in joining us, please contact anyone of the officers:

Eleni Giakoumopoulos, *President* [lenagiak@gmail.com](mailto:lenagiak@gmail.com) / 608-556-8186, *Vice President*: Maria Molzahn, *Recording Secretary*: Jenny Glatch, *Treasurer*: Beth Fatsis, *Advisor*: Patti Cameron, *Asst. Treasurer*: Maria Heide, *Corresponding Secretary*: Nancy Briamis

We continue to be #PhiloStrong because of the support of this amazing community!!

### **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:**

#### **November Baklava Plus Sale**

Once again we are preparing for the November 20 Baklava Plus Sale. This year's event will be similar to last year's with an online pre-order sale. However, we will be making spanakopita and baklava in the church hall.

#### **Upcoming baking days for Baklava Plus prep - October 23 and November 6.**

We are prepping for spanakopita making on those days. If you are interested, please contact Sue Soloninka at [solofam5@yahoo.com](mailto:solofam5@yahoo.com).

The quantities of items we prepare will depend solely on the number of volunteers who can assist with this process. The Baklava Plus pick up day will be November 20.

### **MONTHLY TRAY**

The tray collection per month is included in the newsletter. For October we will be collecting for the Afghan evacuees.

To continue maintaining a flow of revenue to our accounts, we thank you for considering making a contribution to Philoptochos and all our efforts. We invite all parishioners who are interested in making a donation to place a donation in the tray located at the entrance near the narthex. If you wish to send a donation instead, you can place it in the Philoptochos mailbox OR send it to:

Beth Fatsis  
Philoptochos Treasurer  
1215 E Johnson St  
Madison, WI  
53703

All proceeds go to local, Metropolis, National Philoptochos and international endeavors. Examples of support locally include the Goodman Community Center, Madison Public Schools, Mentoring Positive, COVID-19 assistance fund-Metropolis of Chicago. Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Porchlight Inc., River Food Pantry, and UW Children's Hospital.

### **METROPOLIS**

October 7-10: Metropolis Clergy-Laity. St. Louis, MO (Philoptochos – Officers workshop)

November 6: National Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, Indianapolis, IN

November 14: National Philoptochos Sunday

National Philoptochos Convention – July 2022, New York, NY

# **JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF, VETREN RECOGNITION & FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY**

**On Sunday, November 14th, 2021 the Sunday School & Greek School  
will host a chili cook-off in the Social Hall immediately after Liturgy**

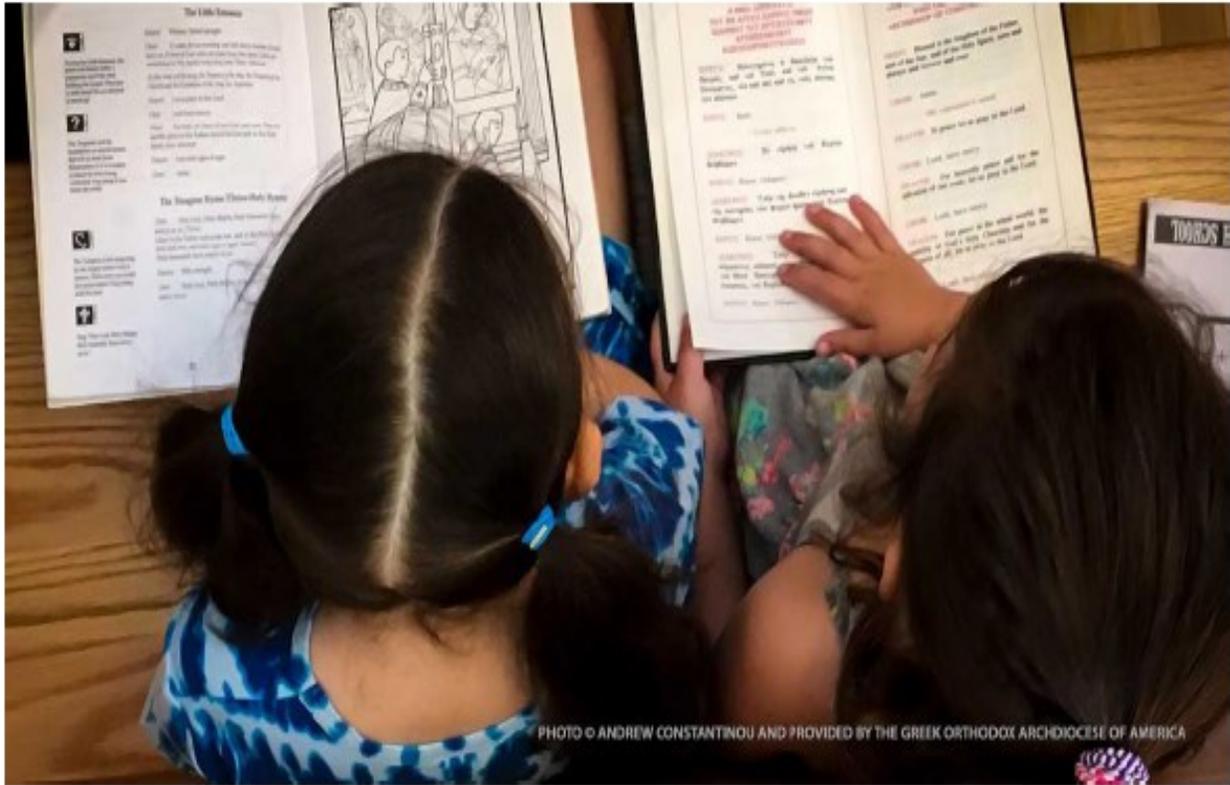
Join us for a Variety of Chili, fixin's, sides, drinks & desserts - and chicken nuggets for the non-chili eaters! Help us raise money for the Sunday School and Greek School!

- Interested in putting your chili to the test and winning the coveted Chili Champ Koutala! See Fr. Christodoulos and he will give you the rules. We can accept up to 10 entries.
- Want to come taste and vote? The cost is \$7.00 and Veterans and kids 3 and under are free.

## Rules for Cooks

1. Have a 6-quart Crock pot (minimum) with your chili ready to eat by 11:00 a.m. on November 14th.
2. On the front of you 5x8 index card, indicate what type you are entering and give it a heat rating (mild, medium, hot). DO NOT include your name.
3. On the back of the card list the ingredients (measurements not needed)
4. The Sunday School and Greek School will provide fixin's, (cheese, onions, jalapenos, sour cream, crackers, chips and hot Sauce), and tasting cups, spoons and bowls.
5. Winner will be determined by popular vote only—no judges—this is just for fun and fellowship!

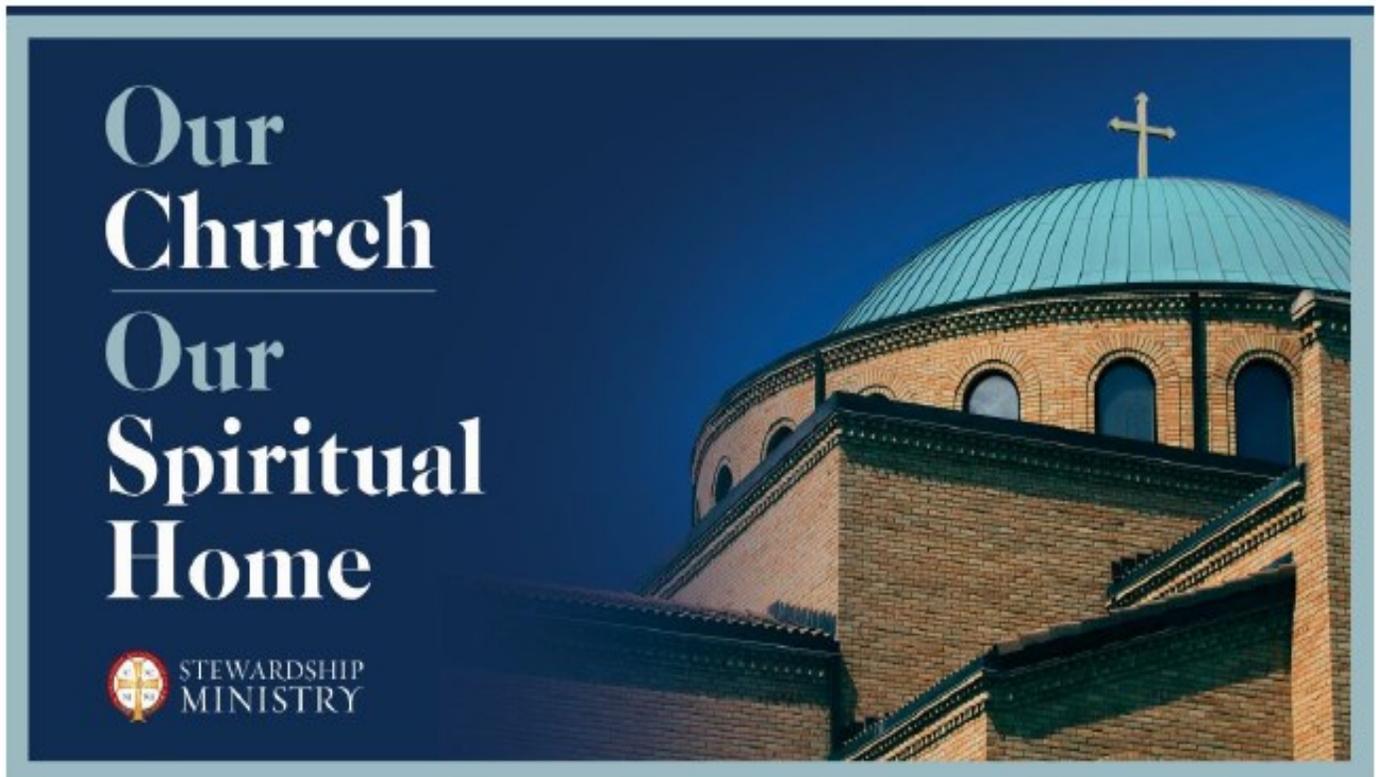




You may have been brought to the Orthodox Church on your 40<sup>th</sup> day, or the Orthodox Church may have been the destination of your spiritual journey. For both, the Church is a spiritual home to which we may always return.

**We are brothers and sisters in Christ – a family.**

# What is Christian Stewardship?



Christian Stewardship is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work., for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

# YOUTH CORNER

## Kids Bible Wordsearch

Men of the Old  
Testament  
Puzzle #6

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward,  
backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

AARON  
ABEL  
ABRAHAM  
ADAM  
AMOS  
CAIN  
DANIEL  
DAVID  
ELIJAH  
EZEKIEL  
GIDEON  
GOLIATH  
ISAAC  
JACOB



JOB  
JOEL  
JONAH  
JONATHAN  
JOSEPH  
JOSHUA  
LOT  
MOSES  
NIMROD  
NOAH  
SAMSON  
SAMUEL  
SAUL  
SOLOMON



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Will be held on Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Once again this year our Church will be electing a new Parish Council members for 2022-2023 term. It's not too early to start thinking about serving on the Parish Council. Half the seats will be open for election. If you want to see improvements and changes in our church, you need to get involved. Sitting on the sideline doesn't help your team win. You need to get into the game and work as a team to be victorious. A candidate must be a member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election.

**ALTAR BOYS MEETING OCTOBER 3rd:** As School is in full swing we are seeking our young men to take a step in helping out Christ's church in the Altar. We are looking for boys ages 8 and up to come help server in the Altar. This is wonderful opportunity to serve Christ and help out with the liturgy as well. We will be holding an Altar boy meeting on Sunday, October 3rd immediately following Divine Liturgy to begin training our boys and beginning this beautiful ministry of the church. Anyone interested is welcome to come into the altar now and begin helping. If you are interested but unable to attend just see Fr. Christodoulos.

**YOUTH WORKERS WANTED:** Our youth programs here at Assumption will rely on wonderful volunteers We could use some more parents to help our Youth programs to get off the ground. We are also in need of an Athletic Director so we can try to form a Junior Olympic team for Next year's Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics. Without parishioner support, especially our youth's parents, we will be unable to launch successful youth programs. Please offer your time and talent. If you are interested in helping in any capacity for our youth programs please contact Fr. Christodoulos.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS:** A.R.E. classes are again in full swing. We are currently going the the book of Acts and upon completion will start with the life of Saint Nektarios. We will have in person classes on Wednesday's 11:00 a.m. here at the church. We have a virtual zoom class on Thursday's beginning at 6:30 p.m. This month be sure to check the schedule as classes will vary do to Fr. Christodoulos's travel schedule. The classes are the same and interchangeable. We look forward to continuing our journey together.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION:** The Sacrament of Confession is one of the most important sacraments of the Church. We should always be striving to reconcile ourselves with God. Take a moment during the year to set up a time for this most blessed sacrament. Please call Fr. Christodoulos if you would like to schedule an appointment. God Bless

**J & M HOME HELPERS:** AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church. Call Mike at (608) 516-9188 and John at (608) 575-1014 today!

**FUTURE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** I have been blessed to lead a few trips to the Holy Land as a priest and I plan to lead another one for our parish here at Assumption. This will be in the fall of 2022. But if you are interested keep it in mind and more information will come when available.

**PARISH FAMILY OUTING:** Come Join us at Assumption for a parish youth night out at Treinen Farms & Pumpkin Patch for an evening of fun Fall Activities for adults & Children of all ages. Treinen Farm is home of one of the 10 ten Corn Mazes in the country. Here is a list of just some of the activites that familys can do while visiting. Schrödinger's Cat and Other Thought Experiments 15 acre Corn Maze, Children's Maze and Farm Funnies Game, String Theory Maze, Barnyard Animals, Molehill Mountain Adventure Slides and Cave, Natural Play Area, Haymow Hayfort and Spider Webs, Walking and hiking areas, Enchanted Woods, Little Farmer Area, Silo-phone, Silo Climbing Wall, Ice Age Boulders Climber, Picnic areas, Tractor Tire Playground, Gaga Ball, Duck Races, Pumpkin Day Care, Visit our three pumpkin patches and even pick out a pumpkin to bring home.

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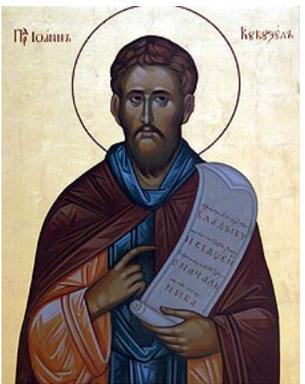
**Saint Romanos the Melodist:** Saint Romanos the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

Saint Romanos was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanos, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanos sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One...” All the hymns of Saint Romanos became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin’s scroll. Saint Romanos was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, “oikos”).

For his zealous service Saint Romanos was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanos the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord.



**Venerable John Koukouzelis the Hymnographer of Mt. Athos:** Saint John Koukouzelis, a native of Dirrachia (Bulgaria), was orphaned in childhood. Endowed with a very fine voice, he entered the Constantinople court school. He found favor with the emperor John Comnenos (1118-1143) and became a chief court singer. The sumptuousness and luxury of the imperial court bothered the pious youth. Once, when asked what he had eaten for dinner, he replied, “Beans and peas.” The name Koukouzelis (beans and peas) stuck with him ever after.

John began to seek ways to escape the enticements of the court, as well as a marriage arranged for him by the emperor. By the will of God, John met an abbot from Mt. Athos who had come to Constantinople on monastery business. John revealed to the abbot his desire to leave the court. The abbot blessed John to come to the Holy Mountain. There John was accepted and tonsured a monk.

He was given the obedience of tending the monastery’s flock of goats. He took the flock to remote areas of the Holy Mountain to graze. There in the wilderness the youth was able to pray, contemplate God, and sing the divine hymns in solitude. Charmed by the angelic beauty of his voice, the animals gathered around him and listened as though entranced.

Out of modesty and humility the singer did not reveal his gift to the brethren. But once, a wilderness dweller overheard his moving pastoral song and informed the abbot. Saint John then revealed to the abbot that he had been a court singer. He tearfully implored him to remain in the wilderness with his flock.

The abbot was afraid that the emperor would find out that his favorite court singer was on the Holy Mountain and force him to return to court. Wishing to avoid the emperor’s displeasure the abbot journeyed to Constantinople to explain what had become of John and begged him not to hinder the young man from his salvific path.

Thereafter John Koukouzelis sang on the right chanting stand in the cathedral on Sundays and feast days. Once, after singing an Akathist before an icon of the Mother of God, John was granted a great mercy. The

Mother of God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Rejoice, John, and do not cease to sing. For that, I shall not forsake you.” With these words she placed into John’s hand a golden coin, then became invisible. This coin was placed beneath the icon. Many miracles have been credited to the coin and the icon. The icon, named the “Koukouzelissa” in memory of Saint John is located in the Lavra monastery of Saint Athanasius. It is commemorated on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> Friday after Pascha.

The Mother of God appeared to Saint John again and healed him of a grievous affliction of his legs, caused by the long standing in church. Saint John’s remaining days were spent in intense ascetic efforts. He also worked hard on the discipline of church singing, gaining the title of both master teacher and regent (overseer).

He arranged and compiled melodies for church stichera verses, troparia and kontakia. He edited texts of hymns and wrote his own troparia. Some of his compositions are also in the following manuscripts: “A Book, by the Will of God Encompassing All the Order of Progression of Church Services, Compiled by Master Teacher John Koukouzelis,” “Progression of Services, Compiled by Master Teacher John Koukouzelis,” “From the Beginning of Great Vespers through to the Completion of the Divine Liturgy,” and “The Science of Song and Singing Signs with all the Legitimate Hand-Placement and with all the Arrangements of Song.”

Foreseeing the hour of his death, Saint John took his leave of the brethren, and in his last wishes bade them to bury him in the Church of the Archangel that he built. Church singers reverence Saint John Koukouzelis as their own special patron saint.

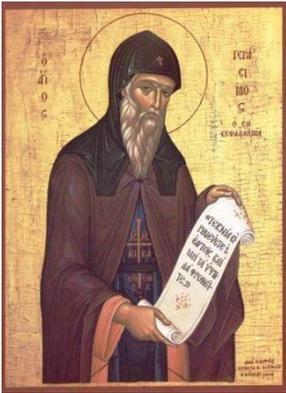


**Virgimartyr Justina of Nicomedia:** The holy Virgin Martyr Justina suffered for Christ in Nicomedia with the Hieromartyr Cyprian and the Martyr Theoctistus in 304. At first Saint Cyprian was a pagan sorcerer, and tried to corrupt Juliana through his magic spells. The holy virgin Justina lived in Antioch. After turning her own father and mother away from pagan error and leading them to the true faith in Christ, she dedicated herself to the Heavenly Bridegroom and spent her time in fasting and prayer. When the youth Aglaides proposed marriage to her, the saint refused, for she wished to remain a virgin. Agalides sought Cyprian’s help and asked for a magic spell to charm Justina into marriage. But no matter what Cyprian tried, he could accomplish nothing, since the saint overcame all the wiles of the devil through her prayers and fasting.

Cyprian sent demons to attack the holy virgin, trying to arouse fleshly passions in her, but she dispelled them by the power of the Sign of the Cross and by fervent prayer to the Lord. Even though one of the demonic princes and Cyprian himself, assumed various guises by the power of sorcery, they were not able to sway Saint Justina, who was guarded by her firm faith in Christ. All the spells dissipated, and the demons fled at the mere mention of the saint’s name. Cyprian, in a rage, sent down pestilence and plague upon Justina’s family and upon all the city, but this was thwarted by her prayer. Cyprian’s soul, corrupted by its domination over people and by his incantations, was shown in all the depth of his downfall, and also the abyss of nothingness of the evil that he served.

Once he realized the powerlessness of the demons, Saint Cyprian rejected them and became a Christian. He was baptized, and after a time, he was consecrated as a bishop. The Hieromartyr Cyprian converted so many pagans to Christ that in his diocese there was no one left to offer sacrifice to idols, and the pagan temples fell into disuse. Saint Justina withdrew to a monastery and was chosen Abbess.

During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Diocletian, Bishop Cyprian and Abbess Justina were arrested and brought to Nicomedia, where after fierce tortures they were beheaded with the sword. Saint Cyprian, fearful that the holy virgin’s courage might falter if she saw him put to death, asked for time to pray. Saint Justina joyfully inclined her neck and was beheaded first. The soldier Theoctistus, seeing the guiltless

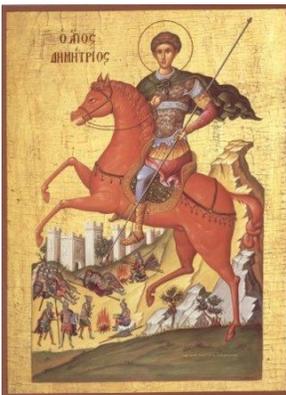


**Ὁ Ὅσιος Γεράσιμος ὁ νέος ἄσκητής, ὁ Πελοποννήσιος:** Γεννήθηκε τὸ 1509 στὰ Τρίκαλα τῆς Κορινθίας. Καταγόταν ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπίσημη οἰκογένεια τῶν Νοταράδων καὶ ἦταν γιὸς τοῦ Δημητρίου καὶ τῆς Καλῆς.

Ἀπὸ μικρὸς ἔλαβε χριστιανικὴ καὶ ἀρχοντικὴ ἀνατροφή καὶ διακρινόταν στὸ σχολεῖο γιὰ τὴν εὐστροφία καὶ τὴν εὐφυΐα τοῦ μυαλοῦ του. Εὐγενικὴ ψυχὴ ὁ Γεράσιμος, συμπαθοῦσε τοὺς φτωχοὺς συμμαθητές του καὶ τοὺς βοηθοῦσε μὲ κάθε τρόπο.

Ὅταν ἔφτασε σὲ ὄριμη ἡλικία, περιηγήθηκε διάφορα μέρη, ὅπως τὴν Ζάκυνθο, τὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη καὶ τὰ γύρω ἀπ' αὐτή, τὸ Ἅγιον Ὄρος, διάφορες Μονές τῆς Ἀνατολῆς γιὰ νὰ μείνει στὴν Ἱερουσαλήμ. Ἐκεῖ ὑπηρέτησε σὰν νεωκόρος γιὰ ἓνα χρόνο στὸν Ναὸ τῆς Ἀναστάσεως καὶ χειροτονήθηκε Διάκονος καὶ ἀργότερα Πρεσβύτερος, ἀπὸ τὸν Πατριάρχη Ἱεροσολύμων Γερμανό.

Κατόπιν ἔφυγε καὶ ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ καὶ κατέληξε στὴν τοποθεσία Ὁμαλὰ τῆς Κεφαλονιάς, ὅπου ἔκτισε γυναικεῖο Μοναστήρι καὶ τὸ ὀνόμασε Νέα Ἱερουσαλήμ. Στὴ Μονὴ αὐτὴ λοιπόν, ἀφοῦ ἔζησε ἀσκητικὰ καὶ ἀνέπτυξε μεγάλες ἀρετές, βοηθώντας πνευματικὰ καὶ ὑλικὰ τοὺς κατοίκους τῆς Κεφαλονιάς, ἀπεβίωσε εἰρηνικὰ στὶς 15 Αὐγούστου τοῦ 1579, σὲ ἡλικία περίπου 70 ἐτῶν. (Κυρίως αὐτὴ τὴ μέρα, ἐορτάζεται ἡ μνήμη τῆς ἀνακομιδῆς τῶν Ἱερῶν λειψάνων του τὸ 1580 – 81).



**Ὁ Ἅγιος Δημήτριος ὁ Μεγαλομάρτυρας ὁ Μυροβλύτης:** Ὑψηλόβαθμος ἀξιωματικὸς τοῦ ρωμαϊκοῦ στρατοῦ, ἔζησε καὶ μαρτύρησε ἐπὶ τῶν αὐτοκρατόρων Διοκλητιανοῦ καὶ Μαξιμιανοῦ, περίοδος φοβερῶν διωγμῶν ἐναντίον τῶν χριστιανῶν.

Ὁ Δημήτριος, ὁ ὁποῖος καταγόταν ἀπὸ εὐσεβῆ οἰκογένεια τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης δὲν φοβήθηκε τίς διαταγές τῶν αὐτοκρατόρων καὶ συνέχισε νὰ κηρύττει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Αὐτὴ του ἡ δράση τὸν ὀδήγησε μπροστὰ στὸν Δοκλιτιανό, ὁ ὁποῖος διέταξε τὴν φυλάκισή του.

Στὴν φυλακὴ ἦταν ἓνας νεαρὸς χριστιανὸς, ὁ Νέστορας, ὁ ὁποῖος θὰ ἀντιμετώπιζε σὲ μονομαχία τὸν φοβερὸ μονομάχο τῆς ἐποχῆς Λυαῖο. Ὁ νεαρὸς χριστιανὸς πρὶν τὴ μονομαχία ἐπισκέφθηκε τὸν Δημήτριο καὶ ζήτησε τὴν βοήθειά του. Τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα ἦταν ὁ Νέστορας νὰ νικήσει τὸν Λυαῖο καὶ νὰ προκαλέσει τὴν ὀργὴ τοῦ αὐτοκράτορα. Διατάχθηκε νὰ θανατωθῶν καὶ οἱ δυὸ, Νέστορας καὶ Δημήτριος.

Σήμερα ὁ Ἅγιος Δημήτριος τιμᾶται ὡς πολιοῦχος Ἅγιος τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης. Ἡ μεταφορὰ τῆς εἰκόνας τοῦ Ἁγίου Δημητρίου στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη ἔγινε τὸ ἔτος 1149 ἀπὸ τὸν βασιλιὰ Μανουὴλ Κομνηνό. Καὶ ἡ εἰκόνα μεταφέρθηκε ἀπὸ τὴν Θεσσαλονίκη στὴν Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Παντοκράτορος τῆς Κωνσταντινούπολης, ἐπὶ ἡγουμενίας Ἰωσήφ.

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