



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox
Shrine Church

May 24, 2026

Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos
Rev. Presbyter Alexandros Douvres

Office (718) 357-4200 - Email info@stnicholasflushing.org - www.stnicholasflushing.org

Κυριακή Ζ' τῶν 318 Ἁγίων Πατέρων τῆς Α' Οἰκομ. Συνόδου - Fathers of the 1st Council

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμᾳ σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

Ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος, βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ Λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

Κονιάκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς.

Τὴν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν πληρώσας οἰκονομίαν, καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ γῆς ἐνώσας τοῖς οὐρανίοις, ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστε ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, οὐδαμόθεν χωριζόμενος, ἀλλὰ μένων ἀδιάστατος, καὶ βῶν τοῖς ἀγαπῶσί σε· Ἐγὼ εἰμι μεθ' ὑμῶν, καὶ οὐδεὶς καθ' ὑμῶν.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

Apolytikion of the Feast.

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, after You filled the Disciples with joy, by promising to send them the Holy Spirit, and You blessed them and established their faith, that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion of the Feast

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united things on earth with the things in heaven, You were taken up thither in glory, O Christ our God, going not away from any place, but continuing inseparable, and to them that love You crying out: "I am with you, and there is, therefore, none against you."



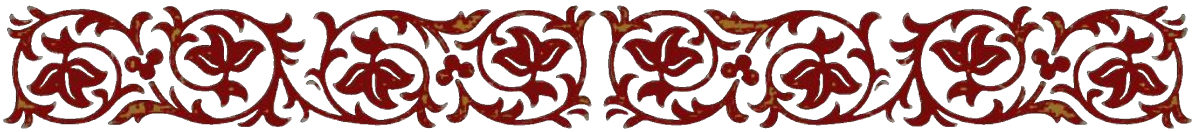
ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (Πράξ. 20:16 18, 28 36)

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλεῦσαι τὴν Ἔφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἔσπευδε γάρ, εἰ δυνατὸν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμπσας εἰς Ἔφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας. ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Θεοῦ, ἣν περιεποίησατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον. καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ Θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πᾶσιν. ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσίου ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα· αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεῖαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὖσι μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπηρέτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐταί. πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν ὅτι οὕτω κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων, μνημονεύειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπε· μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θεὶς τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσηύξατο.



EPISTLE READING (Acts 20:16 18, 28 36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of the Lord and God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.



ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (ΠΩΑΝ. 17:1 - 13)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ ἐπάρας ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐλήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν, ἵνα καὶ ὁ υἱός σου δοξάσῃ σε, καθὼς ἔδωκας αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, ἵνα πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. αὕτη δέ ἐστιν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωή, ἵνα γινώσκωσί σε τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. ἐγὼ σε ἐδόξασα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸ ἔργον ἐτελείωσα ὃ δέδωκάς μοι ἵνα ποιήσω· καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣ εἶχον πρὸ τοῦ τὸν κόσμον εἶναι παρὰ σοί. Ἐφανέρωσά σου τὸ ὄνομα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου. σοὶ ἦσαν καὶ ἐμοὶ αὐτοὺς δέδωκας, καὶ τὸν λόγον σου τετηρήκασι. νῦν ἔγνωκαν ὅτι πάντα ὅσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστίν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξῆλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἐρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἐρωτῶ, ἀλλὰ περὶ ὧν δέδωκάς μοι, ὅτι σοὶ εἰσι, καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα σὰ ἐστί καὶ τὰ σὰ ἐμὰ, καὶ δεδόξασμαι ἐν αὐτοῖς. καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ οὗτοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσί, καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι. πάτερ ἅγιε, τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ᾧ δέδωκάς μοι, ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς. ὅτε ἤμην μετ' αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου· οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπόλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ἵνα ἡ γραφή πληρωθῇ. νῦν δὲ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι, καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς.





GOSPEL READING (JN. 17:1 - 13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name; those whom you have given me I have guarded, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”



ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

MAY 2026

May 3 SUN	Sunday of the Paralytic Κυριακή του Παραλυτικού 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy	May 21 THU	Feast of Ascension Εορτή της Αναλήψεως 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
May 6 WED	Mid-Pentecost Μεσοπεντηκοστής 8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy	May 24 SUN	Fathers of the 1st Council Άγ Πατέρων τής Α' Οίκουμ. Συνόδου 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy
May 9 SAT	St. Christopher the Martyr Άγ. Χριστοφόρου Μάρτυρα 8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy	May 25 MON	+Memorial Day+ +Τρισάγιον στα Μνήματα+ Flushing Cemetery 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
May 10 SUN	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Κυριακή της Σαμαρείτιδας 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy	May 27 WED	St. John the Russian Άγ. Ιωάννου του Ρώσου 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
May 11 MON	SS. Cyril and Methodios Άγ. Κύριλλου και Μεθοδίου 8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy	May 30 SAT	Saturday of the Souls Ψυχοσάββατο 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy
May 14 THU	St. Isidore of Chios Άγ. Ισιδώρου του εν Χίου 8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy	May 31 SUN	Sunday of Pentecost Κυριακή της Πεντηκοστής 7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy
May 17 SUN	Sunday of the Blind Man Κυριακή του Τυφλού 7:30 Orthros / 8:45 Liturgy		
May 20 WED	Apodosis of Pascha Απόδοση του Πάσχα 8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 Liturgy 9th Hour - 9η Ώρα 6:30 p.m. Great Vespers of the Ascension Μέγας Εσπερινός της Αναλήψεως		



Dear Parish Family,

As we approach the summer months, we ask you to prayerfully remember your stewardship commitment to our parish. While many families travel and schedules change during the summer season, the ministry and daily expenses of the church continue without pause. Our parish remains active in worship, outreach, maintenance, and service to our community throughout the year.

If you have not yet made your 2026 stewardship commitment, or if you are able to offer an additional gift, we humbly ask that you do so before summertime. Every offering, no matter the size, helps sustain the life and mission of our church.

As Holy Scripture reminds us:

*"Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase."
— Proverbs 3:9*

And:

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."— 2 Corinthians 9:7

We are deeply grateful for your continued love, generosity, and faithful support of our parish family. May God bless you abundantly for all that you give and do in His name.

For online giving- <https://onrealm.org/StNicholasShrine/Give>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Aristidis Garinis".

Rev. Economos Aristidis Garinis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Athanasopoulos".

Demetrios Athanasopoulos



BRONZE DEDICATION LEAF	\$2,000
SILVER DEDICATION LEAF	\$5,000
GOLD DEDICATION LEAF	\$10,000
BENEFACTOR DOVE	\$25,000
GREAT BENEFACTOR STONE	\$50,000

Please consider supporting our Renovation For Our Future project to continue passing the torch of Orthodox faith and Hellenism to our future generations.

BRONZE LEAF \$2,000

SILVER LEAF \$5,000

GOLD LEAF \$10,000

DOVE \$25,000

STONE \$50,000

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE PRINT INSCRIPTION CLEARLY. 3 LINES (33 CHARACTERS MAX)

"SO LET EACH ONE GIVE AS HE PURPOSES IN HIS HEART; NOT GRUDGINGLY OR OUT OF

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

LITTLE ANGELS

MOMMY & ME PROGRAM

For Children Ages 0-2.5



About the Program

Program Director Margarita Eleftheriadis

Our "Little Angels" program is a vibrant, faith-centered ministry designed for our youngest parishioners (infants through Pre-K) and their caregivers.

It's more than just a playgroup—it's a place for moms, dads, and grandparents to connect, share experiences, and build lifelong friendships within our St. Nicholas family.

Classes

- Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Featuring:

- Creative Music and Movement
- Arts and Crafts
- Greek songs and themes
- Early Social Interaction
- Sensory Stimulation
- Great opportunity to meet other families.

Email: SaintNicholasLittleAngels@gmail.com

718-357-4200 - www.stnicholasflushing.org



NURTURING FAITH, HELLENIC HERITAGE, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
GEORGE & EVLAVIA DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL

Building Foundations for Life



OUR CORE VALUES

Welcome to a family-oriented community where children are lovingly nurtured in the Christian Faith and our rich Hellenic Heritage.



2-YEAR OLD PROGRAM

We provide a structured environment that honors faith and tradition while challenging young minds to grow and excel.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our accelerated curriculum integrates Hellenic language and values, ensuring students are fully prepared for the transition to primary education.

Call or Email to secure your child's spot

REGISTER TODAY

Ready to ignite your child's imagination?
Enroll today!.



Certified by the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

Follow us 



Contact Us
718-357-0800



Our Location
43-09 196 Street, Flushing



Email
StNicholasDoulaVeris@gmail.com
IG @DoulaVeris_Preschool



Η ΧΟΡΩΔΙΑ

ΤΟΥ ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ
«ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ ΣΠΥΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ»

ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ, FLUSHING

ΠΑΡΟΥΣΙΑΖΕΙ ΕΝΑ ΑΦΙΕΡΩΜΑ

ΣΤΑ ΤΡΑΓΟΥΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ



ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 28 ΜΑΪΟΥ 2026 – 7:00 μ.μ.

ΑΙΘΟΥΣΑ «ΠΙΕΤΡΟΣ ΣΑΡΑΝΤΑΚΟΣ»

ΜΙΧΕΛΕΙΟ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ, FLUSHING

43-15 196TH street Flushing, NY 11358 (718)357-5583

ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

Wine and Cheese

NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT
UNDER THE STARS!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD
7:00-10:00PM

\$15 PER PERSON

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
4TH FLOOR BALCONY





ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

A Day in the Park



Sunday, June 7th



2pm to 5pm at Bowne Park

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAMES &
BLANKETS TO ENJOY A DAY OF
FELLOWSHIP IN GOD'S CREATION!



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

ADVERTISE IN THE ARK

The St. Nicholas Parish community relies on The Ark as its communication hub, offering your business a direct, established path to a loyal local audience.



Get Noticed in June!

Want to reach our community? Advertise in the upcoming June 2026 issue of The Ark! Whether you're promoting a local business, a summer event, or a personal milestone, our quarterly parish newsletter is the perfect place to be seen.

Space is limited! Contact us by Jun 2nd to secure your spot.

Inquire at: Email or QR code below.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Tomorrow the clergy will meet at Flushing Cemetery at 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Αύριο οι ιερείς θα τελέσουν τα ιερά Τρισάγια στο κοιμητήριο του Φλάσινγκ στις
9 π.μ. μέχρι τις 12 μ.μ.

The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Flushing will hold its **General Assembly meeting on June 7th**. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this important meeting to discuss the ongoing life and future of our community. Please mark your calendars and join us in Sarantakos Hall.

KIDS BULLETIN PAGE

The Story of Saints Constantine and Helen

Over 1,700 years ago, Emperor Constantine ruled the Roman Empire. Before a major battle, he saw a miraculous vision of a glowing Cross in the sky with the words, "In this sign, conquer." He marched into battle with the Cross on his soldiers' shields and won. Afterward, Constantine passed the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, a law that finally allowed Christians to practice their faith safely and openly.

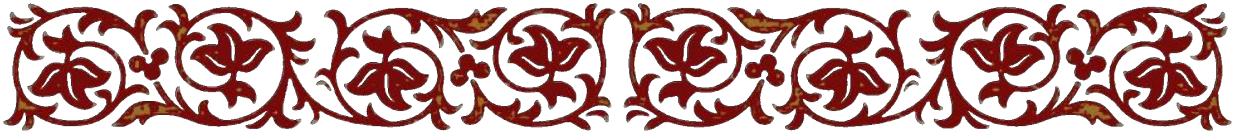
Meanwhile, his pious mother, Saint Helen, traveled to Jerusalem on a holy mission to find the places where Jesus lived. After searching diligently, she discovered the True, Life-Giving Cross of Christ buried beneath Mount Calvary. Together, the mother and son built beautiful churches over these holy sites.

Because they helped the Christian faith grow across the world, the Greek Orthodox Church honors them as Isapostoloi ("Equal to the Apostles") and celebrates their feast day every year on May 21st.

Saints Constantine and Helen

Apostles	Holy
Constantine	Isapostoloi
Cross	Jerusalem
Edict of Milan	May
Emperor	Mission
Equal	Saint
Helen	Sign

N H S M O Y M T E R E I N
O O N L S I M N Y Q O O S
M N A T S E L O L N U E I
M E O S T Y S S O R C A O
M O I O A S R A H N M C L
I O E M R P I S T G S A O
N A L I M F O T C I D E T
S P A P O S T L E S M I S
P E A P S O E I R S C O O
J E R U S A L E M M C U P
H H E L E N I I L I T E A
E M P E R O R N O C E N S
T C O N S T A N T I N E I



MEMORIALS

Filia Kavalaris
Ioannis Kavitsios
Marinos Limberatos
George Mamais
Kalliopi Mamais
Paraskevas Sackos
Eleftheria Vasilopoulos

MNHMOΣYNA

Φίλιας Καβαλάρη
Ιωάννου Καβιτσίου
Μαρίνου Λυμπεράτου
Γεωργίου Μαμάη
Καλλιόπης Μαμάη
Παρασκευά Σάκκου
Ελευθερίας Βασιλοπούλου

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Son of
Jennifer & Michael Pappas
Saturday, May 30th
11:30 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Catherine Moskos & Constantine Bournias
Saturday, May 30th
2:00 P.M.

Anna Mantikas & Gregory Stathopoulos
Saturday, May 30th
4:00 P.M.



DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING - *John 17:1-13* | Fr. George Parsenios

Today's Gospel reading from John 17 is the concluding section of the long Farewell Discourse that Jesus delivers in John 13-17. Two things deserve attention from this discourse. First, Jesus bids farewell to his disciples in the same way that Old Testament patriarchs do prior to their deaths. Moses and others consoled their followers, offered commandments to live by, and reminded their followers of God's plans. Jesus follows this pattern closely. Second, the farewell of Jesus differs from other biblical farewells in that Jesus stresses his continuing presence even more than his departure. Even as he bids them farewell, he emphasizes that he is going nowhere. He washes the disciples' feet, so they "have a part with him" (John 13). They are united to him like branches are to a vine (John 15:5). Even as

they suffer and are hated by the world, their suffering unites them to Jesus, and they will be supported by the Holy Spirit as they suffer (John 15:20). All this recalls Jesus' teaching that as long as we eat his flesh and drink his blood, we abide in him and he abides in us (John 6:54). Even though he says that he is no longer in the world, he still promises to be with us until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). But the continuing presence of Jesus is not confined to our life on earth. He tells his disciples in John 14:3, "I go and prepare a place for you; I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Christ remains with us on earth, while also preparing us to dwell with him forever in heavenly joy. Let us strive ever more to live this heavenly life on earth.

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. www.hchc.edu



Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from Leadership 100

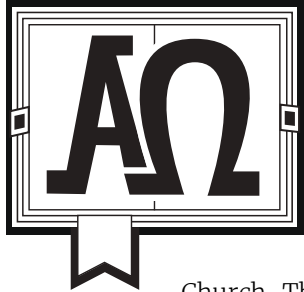
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FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: *Episkopos* (Ἐπίσκοπος) What does “Bishop” mean?

Fr. George Parsenios



The English word “bishop” comes from the Greek word *ἐπίσκοπος/episkopos*. The Greek term “*epi*” means “over,” and the verb *skopeo* means “to see.” A bishop, therefore, is literally someone who “oversees” (*epi-skopos*) the life of the

Church. The term had a rich history in Ancient Greek. It could be applied to the captain of a ship, who oversaw the safety of his crew; or to various civic officials who oversaw the stability of their cities. The Greek translation of the Old Testament

refers to God himself as an *episkopos* who oversees the health of Israel with complete omniscience (Wis 1:6). In this same spirit, the New Testament refers to Christ as a shepherd and *episkopos* of his flock (1 Peter 2:25). Human bishops take the name *episkopos*, therefore, because they continue Christ’s work of overseeing the Church. When St. Paul bids farewell to the leaders of the Church in Ephesus, he reminds them that the Holy Spirit has made them each a shepherd and overseer (*episkopos*) of Christ’s flock (Acts 20:28). The term “archbishop” (*Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος*) adds to *episkopos* the prefix *ἀρχι-/arkhi-* which means “first, chief.” An archbishop, therefore, is the ruling or chief bishop over a given region.

THIS WEEK’S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

The Birthday of the Archdiocese



The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America celebrates its 104th year this month. It was established as the Archdiocese of North and South America on May 17, 1922, following two centuries of Orthodox Christian presence in the Americas and decades of grassroots efforts by Orthodox communities to organize and build churches. The earliest of these communities dates to 1768 in British colonial Florida. At the same time, Orthodox Christian families flourished in Spanish colonial New Orleans, with some later serving in the American revolutionary war. In the waves of immigration that followed the Civil War, thousands of Orthodox Christian immigrants established communities and built houses of worship across America under the guidance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As these communities grew in numbers and demand for clergymen increased, efforts to formalize the growing Orthodox Christian presence in America intensified. On May 17, 1922, the Ecumenical Patriarch established the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America and its constituent dioceses, as sees of the Great Church of Christ.

Archbishop Alexander was the first Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America from 1922 - 1930. (Archives - Greek Orthodox Archdiocese)

THE SUNDAY OF The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council



On the seventh Sunday after Easter, our Church commemorates the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea. This was not simply a meeting of scholars, but a council of leaders who defended the truth about Jesus. These 318 Fathers stood united against false teaching, preserving the faith passed down from the Apostles. Their work continues to guide the Church—and each of us—toward salvation.

At the center of the conflict was Arius, a man who taught that Jesus was not fully God, but a created being. This teaching spread quickly and caused serious division. This was not a small disagreement. If Jesus is not truly God, then He cannot fully reconcile humanity to God. With courage, humility, and deep faith, they proclaimed together that Jesus is “of one essence with the Father,” fully divine and eternal. From this declaration came the Nicene Creed, which we still proclaim at every Divine Liturgy as a statement of our faith.

This feast speaks directly to our lives today. We live in a world filled with many ideas, beliefs, and distractions that can slowly lead us away from Jesus Christ. Like Arius, we can sometimes be tempted to shape our understanding of God based on our own preferences rather than the truth revealed to us. The Holy Fathers remind us to stay rooted in the faith of the Church, approaching God with humility and obedience.

Saint Constantine’s role in calling the Council also highlights the importance of unity. Unity in the Church is not based on ignoring differences, but on holding firmly to the truth in love. When we allow pride, judgment, or indifference to divide us, we weaken our witness as Christians. We are called to build unity by living faithfully and loving one another.

The icon of this Sunday shows Saint Constantine with the Holy Fathers, all gathered around the text of the Nicene Creed—the Symbol of Faith.

As you reflect on this day, ask yourself: Do I truly live according to what I believe? Does my life reflect my faith in Jesus Christ as true God?



PERSONAL ACTION ITEM

This week, slowly recite the Nicene Creed each day. Take time to think about each line and ask God to strengthen your faith and help you live according to His truth.



**Saints Constantine and Helen
Commemorated on May 21**

Just For Kids!
(...and the young at heart)

Ὁ ἅγιος
ΚΟΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ

Η ἉΓΙΑ
ΕΛΕΝΗ

