

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME ..."

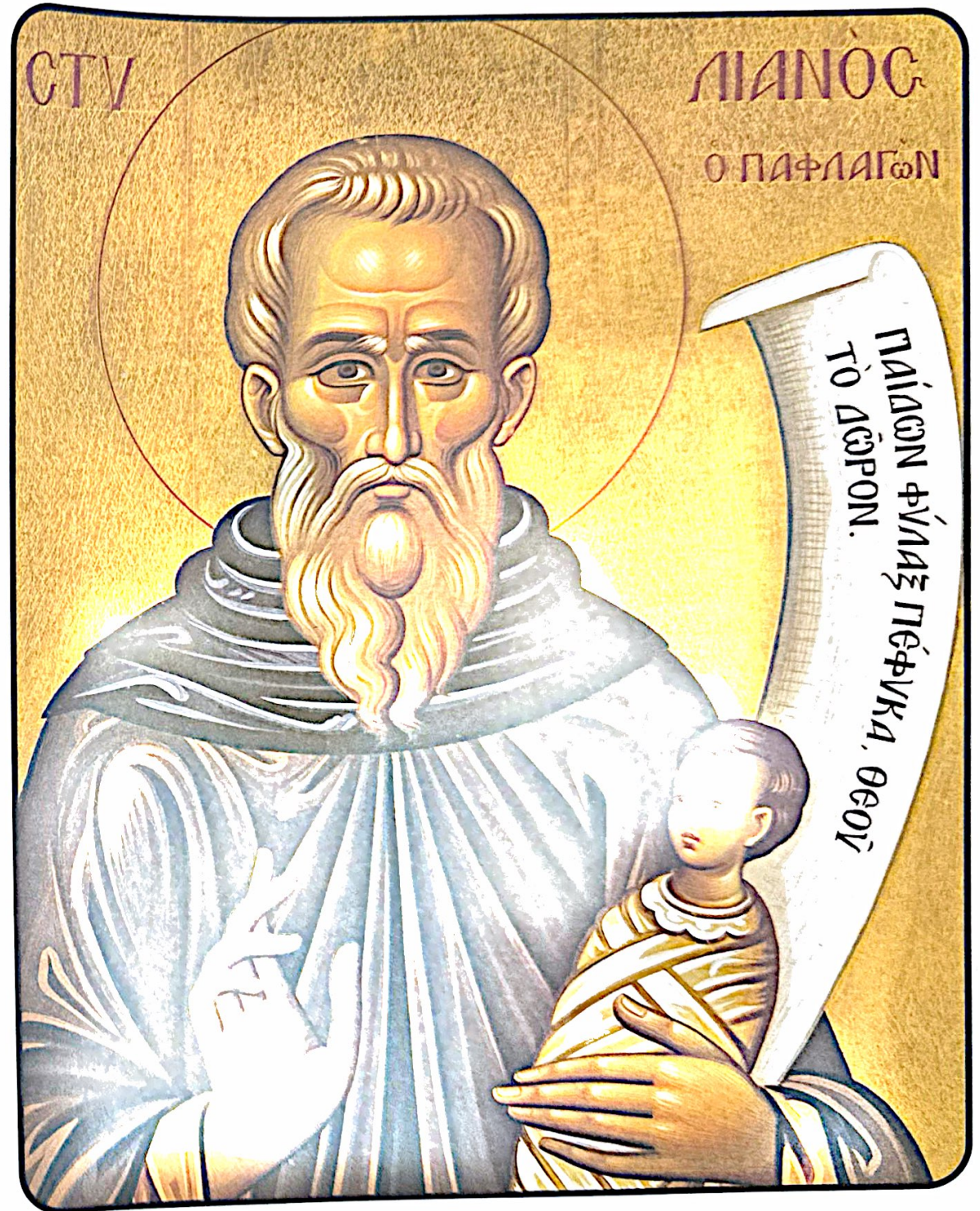
S AINT STYLIANUS was born in Pamphlagonia in Asia Minor sometime between the 4th and 6th centuries. Like many of the early saints, Stylianus inherited a great fortune when his parents died. He could have lived out his life in luxury, never wanting for anything. Instead, he chose to give everything away so that he could "take up his cross" and follow the Lord. Stylianus left the city to live in a monastery, where he zealously practiced the ascetic virtues. When the other monks became jealous of his pious life, Stylianus left the community and went to live in a wilderness cave, constantly spending his days in prayer and fasting.

Word soon spread of the exemplary life that Stylianus was living. Many inhabitants of his home town of Pamphlagonia would come to hear his teachings and seek his wise counsel. It is said that his healing prayers were powerful, and many people were cured of their illnesses through his prayers.

St. Stylianus was known to strongly care for children. It seemed that his healing prayers were most successful when sickly children were brought to him. When St. Stylianus died, his face shone radiantly, and an angel appeared to take his soul to heaven. Even after his death, many parents continued to pray to him to intercede in behalf of their little ones. When a child became ill, it was quite common for parents to have an icon of St. Stylianus painted and hung over the child's bed.

St. Stylianus is remembered as a protector of children and a patron saint to childless women. This is the reason he is depicted holding a child.

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ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
November 26, 2023

13TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

WELCOME ALL VISITORS:

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A 40 day Memorial Service will be chanted today in memory of our sister in Christ Eugenia Sakoulas. May her soul rest in peace and may her memory be eternal.

MEMORIAL LUNCHEON:

The Sakoulas family is sponsoring the Memorial Luncheon in memory of their departed loved one Eugenia Sakoulas. On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, the Church Staff and the entire family of St. Demetrios we would like to thank the Sakoulas family for their thoughtful and generous offering for the Memorial Luncheon in memory of their mother Eugenia Sakoulas. May her memory be Eternal.

SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church office – Monday-Wednesday-Friday (609) 522-0152 or contact Parish Council President Nick Konides (609) 425-0179.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

GREEK SCHOOL: Classes are every Friday night 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to notify parents that Sunday school has already started! We would like all parents to have their children at the church by 9:45 am. Every Sunday after the Gospel reading the children will go to their Sunday school classroom and then come back to receive their Holy Communion.

OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE: Attention everyone: We have a new website! Please add www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com as a favorite on your devices. Be advised that the new website is now LIVE. Please review and enjoy. Donations are able to be processed on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).

LITURGICAL WINTER SCHEDULE:

(For Sunday Hours -9:00 am Orthos and 10:00 am Divine Liturgy)

(For Weekday Services -9:00 am Orthos and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy)

(For Vesper Services-6:00 pm)

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A 40 day Memorial service will be chanted on Sunday, December the 10th in memory of our brother in Christ, Konstantinos Andy. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Sunday, December 3: 14th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00

Tuesday, December 5th: Great Vesper Service which will be held at St. Nicholas (Atlantic City). Time 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, December 6th:** Feast Day of St. Nicholas(Atlantic City) 9:00 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, December 10th: 10th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, December 17th: 11th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, December 24th: Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE: EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: This service will begin at 7:00 pm **ATTENTION EVERYONE:** There will be no service on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 31st: Sunday before Epiphany:

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:

The Stewardship Committee has designated Sunday November 26th as "Stewardship Sunday". A small presentation will take place during the Coffee Hour today. This is the day that we bring in our Stewardship Pledge Cards and present them to Fr. Michael for a special blessing. This is our Annual St. Demetrios Stewardship Pledge Drive. Everyone by now should have taken care of their Financial responsibilities to the Church and make their (New Pledge) for the New Year 2024. May the Lord continue to bless our wonderful Stewards who every year fills out their Pledge Card and sends it in to the Church office. The Parish Council along with Fr. Michael and the church staff would like to thank all our Stewards for their continued support to the Stewardship program.

Saint Sebastian, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 48

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network
OCN

Following the map

Did you ever get really lost?

Maybe you were even riding around with your parents, and you couldn't find where you wanted to go. It helps to have some tool to show you the way, doesn't it? A map, or GPS, or just somebody's good directions.

Saint Paul gave some advice to the new Christians in the city of Ephesus—almost 2,000 years ago! We read Saint Paul's words in the epistle today because they are good advice for us Christians too (that's why we still read them!).

Saint Paul wrote, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." God calls each one of us to follow Him. He calls each one of us to listen to His words and to do them. He calls us to try to be like our perfect Lord, Jesus Christ. He asks us to do that.

But remember, God doesn't force us to follow Him. He doesn't force us to be good Christians.

When we follow Christ and His teachings, it's like we are following a map. We'll always know the right way to go! But if we try to do things our way, and we don't listen to directions, we are going to get lost. Let's live our lives the way God has called us!



WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

We have a photograph of St. Sebastian because he lived not so long ago:

Can you see how his icon looks a lot like his photograph?



SAINT SEBASTIAN OF CALIFORNIA

Have you ever told somebody you're an Orthodox Christian? This week we'll celebrate a saint who sure did! Saint Sebastian spent his whole life telling people about Jesus Christ and about His holy Church.

Saint Sebastian is a new saint—somebody the Church just started calling a saint a few years ago! He was born in San Francisco, California in 1863 and died in 1940. His parents were from Serbia, where most people are Orthodox Christians. They held onto their strong Orthodox faith even when they came to America, where there weren't so many Orthodox Christians. Sebastian learned his faith from his parents, and he became a priest. He lived in lots of places in the United States—California, Alaska, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Illinois, and New Jersey. Everywhere he went, Father Sebastian worked hard to spread the Orthodox faith throughout our country! He built many churches here and preached the faith.

Saint Sebastian died in the country of Yugoslavia, but many years after he died, the church brought his relics (his body) back to California (at the church where he served as a priest). Just eight years ago, Father Sebastian was declared a saint. We can pray to him for many things. Would you like to pray to Saint Sebastian to help the Orthodox Christians in America? He will listen to you!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

California
Calling
Ephesians
Epistle
Gift
Missionary
Saint
Sebastian
Serbian
Share

E Z H F Y Z G A E T U M P W
H R G T G O X Z P L Y N U Y B
V Q A Y S Z P K H N D M E J Y
W A N H Z X K I E A Z W Q A E
X X F S S Y M C S I U Y A O M
A J H T D D A A I N J T I Q E
G T W A M A Y J A R T R O P T
R I N W W P H M N O Z M I C R
O N F I U J W I S F V S L E N
H E H T A R N H W I T I A A A
Y Z K M O S B L A L W I I Y I
C A L L I N G U E A G B G H O
P C J R A U N F P C R F O S O
N A I T S A B E S E D M W Z J
F Y R A N O I S S I M Z Z B V

Απολυτίκιον Αναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ Εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφήν
κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης
τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν,
Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Ἦχος γ'. Θείας πίστεως.

Μέγαν εὗρατο ἐν τοῖς
κινδύνοις, σὲ ὑπέρμαχον ἢ
οἰκουμένη, ἀθλοφόρε τὰ
ἔθνη τροπούμενον. Ὡς οὖν
Λυαίου καθεῖλες τὴν
ἐπαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ
θαρρύνας τὸν Νέστορα,
οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς
Δημήτριε, Χριστοῦ τὸν
Θεὸν ἱκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι
ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος γ'. Αὐτόμελον.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον
Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν
ἀπορήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη
ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν
Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον
νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode pl. 4.

You descended from on high, O
compassionate One, and consented to a three-
day burial, to free us from the passions. O
Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Third tone

You have proved to be for all
the world the great champion
in time of peril, as the victor
in routing the barbarians.
Thus as you put down the
boasting of Lyaïos, imparting
courage to Nestor in the
stadium; so, O holy One,
great Martyr Demetrios,
beseech Christ our God for
us that we may know the gift
of His great mercy.

Kontakion.

Mode 3. Automelon.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the
grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word
* in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy,
all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify
along with Angels and with the shepherds *
Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn
Child, * the pre-eternal God. [52]

Ο ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Ἐφεσίους 5:8-19

Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε [ὁ γὰρ
καρπὸς τοῦ φωτὸς ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ
δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ] δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν
εὐάρεστον τῷ Κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς
ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάροις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ
ἐλέγχετε, τὰ γὰρ κρυφῇ γινόμενα ὑπ' αὐτῶν αἰσχρὸν
ἐστὶν καὶ λέγειν· τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ
φωτὸς φανεροῦνται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς
ἐστὶ. Διὸ λέγει· Ἐγείρε, ὁ καθεύδων, καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ
τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφάνει σοι ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε
οὖν ἀκριβῶς πῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι ἀλλ' ὡς
σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι
πονηραὶ εἰσι. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ
συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ
μεθύσκεσθε οἶνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε
ἐν Πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις
καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες τῇ
καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ Κυρίῳ.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:18-27

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ
Ἰησοῦ πειράζων αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε
ἀγαθέ, τί ποιήσας ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω; εἶπε δὲ
αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ
μὴ εἷς, ὁ Θεός. τὰς ἐντολὰς οἶδας· μὴ μοιχεύσης, μὴ
φονεύσης, μὴ κλέψης, μὴ ψευδομαρτυρήσης, τίμα τὸν
πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα σου. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Ταῦτα
πάντα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου. ἀκούσας δὲ
ταῦτα ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἐπὶ ἐν σοὶ λείπει πάντα
ἃ σοὶ ἔχεις πώλησον καὶ διάδος πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἔξεις
θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολούθει μοι. ὁ δὲ
ἀκούσας ταῦτα περιίλυπος ἐγένετο· ἦν γὰρ πλούσιος
σφόδρα. Ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὸν ὁ Ἰησοῦς περιίλυπον
γενόμενον εἶπε· Πῶς δυσκόλως οἱ τὰ χρήματα ἔχοντες
εἰσελεύσονται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ!
εὐκοπώτερον γὰρ ἐστὶ κάμηλον διὰ τρυμαλῖας
ραφίδος εἰσελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ
Θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. εἶπον δὲ οἱ ἀκούσαντες· Καὶ τίς
δύναται σωθῆναι; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Τὰ ἀδύνατα παρὰ
ἀνθρώποις δυνατὰ παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ ἐστίν.

THE EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of
light is found in all that is good and right and
true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but
instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of
the things that they do in secret; but when anything is
exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything
that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said,
"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ
shall give you light." Look carefully then how you
walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most
of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not
be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
And do not get drunk with wine, for that is
debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing
one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody to the Lord with all your
heart.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him,
"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal
life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me
good? No one is good but God alone. You know the
commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill,
Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your
father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have
observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he
said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you
have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have
treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when
he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich.
Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those
who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is
easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"
But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible
with God."