

## ***St. Anastasius, the New Martyr***

*November 18*



Saint Anastasius and his sister were Greek peasants living in Epirus under Ottoman rule in the mid-eighteenth century. One day, a band of Turks came through their village, led by Musa, the son of the local Pasha (Governor). Musa was struck by the beauty of Anastasius' sister and tried to seize her, but Anastasius threw himself at the Turks and fought them off long enough for his sister to escape. Musa's father had Anastasius arrested and brought before him, and impressed by his courage, attempted to convert him to Islam by many means: threats, beatings and offers of worldly honor. Anastasius, however, held firm, and was cast into prison. After visiting Anastasius in prison and seeing two angels guarding him, Musa expressed his desire for the Christian

faith. A few days later, Anastasius was beheaded by the order of Musa's father. Musa finally fled from his father, was instructed by an ascetic, was baptized, and became a monk on the island of Corfu.

*Apolytikion: You put to shame the errors of the impious, bravely shedding your blood on behalf of Christ God through the pains of your contest. Wherefore having received an incorruptible crown, intercede to the Lord, Anastasios, Martyr, to rescue us from various circumstances.*



**For further inquiries contact a member of the  
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