



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX

*Following St. John the Baptist, we prepare the way of the Lord,
that all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.*

SUNDAY BULLETIN

JULY 26, 2026

Today we commemorate:

- ♦ **8th Sunday of Matthew**
- ♦ **Paraskevi of Rome**
- ♦ **Hermolaos & his Companions**



Today's Memorials

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ ΑΥΤΩΝ!
May their memory be eternal!

40-day: Vlasios (Val) Manaves

1-year: Nikolaos Zafiriadis

On duty this Sunday:

Pangari: Team A (St. Andrew)

Acolytes: Team B (Archangel Gabriel)



COME AND SEE THE RISEN LORD!

Join us each Sunday morning for
Orthros/Matins conducted
in Greek & English.

- ♦ Orthros Binders are in the narthex with service text
- ♦ Proper attire is required during church services.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros 8:30am

Divine Liturgy 9:45am

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros 8:00am

Divine Liturgy 9:00am



WWW.STJOHNTHEBAPTISTGOC.ORG



(847) 827-5510



2350 E DEMPSTER ST, DES PLAINES, IL



STJOHNBAPTISTGOC



SJBGREEKORTHODOX



ENTRANCE HYMN

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ
προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ
Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς
σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

Come let us worship and bow down
before Christ. Son of God, who rose
from the dead, save us who sing to
Thee, Alleluia.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

GRAVE TONE

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν
θάνατον· ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν
Παράδεισον· τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν
θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς
Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας, ὅτι
ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ
κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

You destroyed death by Your Cross,
You opened Paradise to the Robber.
You turned the Myrrh-bearing
Women's lament into joy, and You
commanded Your Apostles to preach
that You rose, O Christ God, granting
the world the great mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. PARASKEVI

1ST TONE

Τὴν σπουδὴν σου τῇ κλήσει
κατάλληλον, ἐργασαμένη φερόνυμε,
τὴν ὁμώνυμόν σου πίστιν, εἰς
κατοικίαν κεκλήρωσαι, Παρασκευὴ
ἀθληφόρε· ὅθεν προχέεις ἰάματα, καὶ
πρεσβεύεις ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

Your diligence corresponded to your
name, Paraskevi, which denotes
preparedness. Through faith you
inherited the promised dwelling that
was prepared for you, O prizewinning
Martyr. Therefore you pour out cures
and healings, and you intercede on
behalf of our souls.

APOLYTIKION FOR HERMOLAOS & HIS COMPANIONS

3RD TONE

Ιερατεύσαντες, γνησίως Ἅγιοι, τῷ
πρυτανεύσαντι, ἡμῖν τα κρείττονα, του
μαρτυρίου την οδόν, ἠνύσατε
γηθοσύνως, Ιερὲ Ερμόλαε, συν
Ερμίπῳ Ερμόκρατες, τρίπτυλον
εδραίωμα, Εκκλησίας γενόμενοι, διο
εκδυσωπεῖτε ἀπαύστως, σώζεσθαι
πάντας πάσης βλάβης.

You faithfully served the Lord as true
priests, O Saints, and joyfully followed
the path of martyrdom. O Hermolaos,
Hermippos and Hermokrates, three-
pillared foundation of the Church, pray
unceasingly that we may be preserved
from harm.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

3RD TONE

Φύλαξ Ἄγγελε, φρούρει καὶ σκέπε, τὸν
δοθέντα σοι εἰς προστασίαν, ἀπὸ παντός
σκοτεινοῦ παραπτώματος. Ἐκ
κατηχήσεως γάρ ο Φιλάνθρωπος, πρὸς
τὸν πιστὸν σε κατέστησε φύλακα. Ὅθεν
Ἄγγελε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἰκέτευε,
φυλάττων μέ πιστὸν Θεοῦ θεράποντα.

Guard and shelter me, who am entrusted
to your guardianship, Guardian Angel,
lest I fall into a dark sin of any kind. The
Lord who loves all humanity assigns
your kind to each believer at the time of
their baptism as their guardian. And
therefore entreat Christ our God, and
guard me the believer, as the servant of
God.

MEMORIAL APOLYTIKION

PLAGAL OF THE 4TH TONE

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τοὺς
δούλους σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ,
ἡμάρτησαν συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ
ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ
τοῖς μεταστᾶσι, δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Remember Your servants, O Lord,
since You are good, and forgive them
for all their sins in life; for no one is
without sin except for You who are
able to give rest to those who have
passed away.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARISH - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

2ND TONE

Μνήμη Δικαίου μέτ' ἐγκωμίων, σοὶ δὲ
ἀρκέσει ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Κυρίου
Πρόδρομε· ἀνεδείχθης γὰρ ὄντως καὶ
Προφητῶν σεβασμιώτερος, ὅτι καὶ ἐν
ρείθροις βαπτίσει κατηξιώθης τὸν
κηρυττόμενον. Ὅθεν τῆς ἀληθείας
ὑπεραθλήσας, χαίρων εὐηγγελίσω καὶ
τοῖς ἐν Ἄδῃ, Θεὸν φανερωθέντα ἐν σαρκί,
τὸν αἶροντα τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου,
καὶ παρέχοντα ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

The memory of the just is observed with
hymns of praise; for you suffices the
testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You
have proved to be truly more ven'erable
than the Prophets, since you were granted
to baptize in the river the One whom they
proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth
you had contested, rejoicing, to those in
Hades you preached the Gospel, that God
was manifested in the flesh, and takes
away the sin of the world, and grants to us
great mercy.

KONTAKION

2ND TONE

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν
ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν
Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης,
ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ
πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν
ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι·
Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς
ἰκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἀεί, Θεοτόκε,
τῶν τιμώντων σε.

O Protection of Christians that never
falls, intercession with the Creator that
never fails, we sinners beg you, do not
ignore the voices of our prayers. O good
Lady, we implore you, quickly come
unto our aid, when we cry out to you
with faith. Hurry to intercession, and
hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who
protect now and ever those who honor
you.



Πραγματικά, πριν έρθει ο Χριστός, μας φρουρούσε ο νόμος. Ήμασταν φυλακισμένοι, ώσπου να φανερωθεί ο μελλοντικός σωτήρας μας. Ο νόμος, λοιπόν, ήταν σκληρός παιδονόμος για μας, ώσπου εμφανίστηκε ο Χριστός, οπότε η πίστη μας σ' αυτόν μας χάρισε τη σωτηρία. Τώρα όμως που ήρθε ο Χριστός, δεν είμαστε πια υπόδουλοι στο νόμο. Είστε, λοιπόν, όλοι παιδιά του Θεού, αφού πιστεύετε στον Ιησού Χριστό. Κι αυτό, γιατί όσοι βαπτιστήκατε στο όνομα του Χριστού, έχετε ντυθεί το Χριστό. Δεν υπάρχει πια Ιουδαίος και ειδωλολάτρης, δεν υπάρχει δούλος και ελεύθερος, δεν υπάρχει άντρας και γυναίκα· όλοι σας είστε ένας, χάρη στον Ιησού Χριστό. Κι αφού ανήκετε στο Χριστό, είστε απόγονοι του Αβραάμ και κληρονόμοι της ζωής, όπως την υποσχέθηκε ο Θεός. Να τι θέλω να πω: Όσον καιρό ο κληρονόμος είναι ανήλικος, δε διαφέρει σε τίποτε από ένα δούλο. Είναι βέβαια ιδιοκτήτης των πάντων, εξαρτάται όμως από επιτρόπους και διαχειριστές, ως την προθεσμία που καθόρισε ο πατέρας. Έτσι κι εμείς, όταν ήμασταν ανήλικοι, ήμασταν υπόδουλοι στα στοιχεία του κόσμου. Όταν όμως έφτασε η ώρα που είχε καθορίσει ο Θεός, απέστειλε τον Υιό του. Γεννήθηκε από μια γυναίκα και υποτάχτηκε στο νόμο, για να εξαγοράσει αυτούς που ήταν υπόδουλοι στο νόμο, για να γίνουμε παιδιά του Θεού.

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.





Ἐτσι ὅταν βγήκε στη στεριά, εἶδε πολὺν κόσμον καὶ τοὺς σπλαχνίστηκε, καὶ γιάτρεψε τοὺς αρρώστους τῶν.
Ὅταν ἔπεσε τὸ δειλινό, τὸν πλησίασαν οἱ μαθητὲς τοῦ καὶ τοῦ εἶπαν: «Ὁ τόπος εἶναι ἐρημικός, καὶ ἡ ὥρα πια περασμένη. Διώξε τὸν κόσμον νὰ πάνε στα χωριά γιὰ ν' αγοράσουν φαγητά νὰ φάνε». Ὁ Ἰησοὺς ὁμῶς τοὺς εἶπε: «Δεν ὑπάρχει λόγος νὰ φύγουν, δώστε τοὺς εσεῖς νὰ φάνε». «Δεν ἔχουμε ἐδῶ παρά πέντε ψωμιά καὶ δύο ψάρια», τοῦ ἀπαντοῦν. «Φέρτε μού τα ἐδῶ», τοὺς λέει. Κι ἀφοῦ πρόσταξε τὸν κόσμον νὰ καθίσει γιὰ φαγητό πάνω στο χορτάρι, πήρε τα πέντε ψωμιά καὶ τα δύο ψάρια, ἔστρεψε τὸ βλέμμα τοῦ στὸν οὐρανό, τα εὐλόγησε, ἔκοψε τα ψωμιά σε κομμάτια καὶ τα ἔδωσε στοὺς μαθητὲς, καὶ οἱ μαθητὲς στὸ πλῆθος. Ἐφαγαν ὅλοι καὶ χόρτασαν. Καὶ μάζεψαν τα περισσεύματα ἀπὸ τα κομμάτια, δώδεκα κοφίνια γεμάτα. Αὐτοὶ ποὺ ἔφαγαν ἦταν περίπου πέντε χιλιάδες ἄντρες, χωρὶς τις γυναῖκες καὶ τα παιδιὰ. Ἀμέσως ὕστερα ὁ Ἰησοὺς υποχρέωσε τοὺς μαθητὲς τοῦ νὰ μπουν στο καῖκι καὶ νὰ πάνε νὰ τὸν περιμένουν στὴν ἀπέναντι ὄχθη, ὥσῳ τοῦ αὐτός διαλύσει τα πλῆθη.

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.



This Week at St. John the Baptist

Sunday, July 26

- 8:30am Orthros 9:45am Divine Liturgy (MC)

Monday, July 27

- 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy (GAC) ST. PANTELEIMON

Tuesday, July 28

- 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy (GAC) ST. IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU
- 11am Funeral of: Helen Skombis (MC)
- 7pm Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, August 1

- 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy (MC) PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS
- 5:00pm Great Vespers (MC)

Sunday, August 2

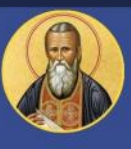
- 8:30am Orthros 9:45am Divine Liturgy (MC)



“

“Those who have not found Christ live in this life without hearty faith; they think and care more about worldly things—how to enjoy themselves, how to eat and drink pleurably, how to dress exquisitely, how to satisfy their carnal desires, how to kill time, with which they do not know what to do, though time seeks them and, not finding them, quickly flies away before their eyes.”

*Righteous John,
Wonderworker of Kronstadt
My Life in Christ*



@sjbgreekorthodox

Have you seen the new monthly email, 60 Seconds for Stewardship

the first Friday of each month?
below to invest 60 seconds to build your
understanding of your role as a steward!



Scan for the latest
60 Seconds for Stewardship



Every year, we all are called to renew our commitment as part of the New Creation in Christ and as Stewards of St. John the Baptist.

Have you renewed your stewardship for 2026?

If not yet, please follow the QR code to the right to renew (or to explore becoming a steward) today!



Community Focus

Find more info on these events on the church website.



PRESCHOOL ADMISSIONS

**GUARDIAN ANGEL
ORTHODOX DAY SCHOOL**

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PYTHAGORAS GREEK SCHOOL
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Open Registration for 2026-2027 academic year!

Join our Greek school
family today!

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Χτίζουμε μαζί με Πίστη, Γλώσσα και Παράδοση
Building Together in Faith, Language and Culture

**A joyful place to learn, grow,
and embrace Greek culture!**

Our Programs

Saturday Greek School

- 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Pre-K to Grade 9

Wednesday Immersion Program

- 5:00 pm - 7:15 pm
- Pre-K to Grade 9

**IMPORTANCE OF
GREEK-ORTHODOX EDUCATION**

- Faith Connection
- Cultural Heritage
- Cognitive benefits
- Stronger community ties

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!



+MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER +GRADE 5 TEACHER

**GUARDIAN ANGEL ORTHODOX DAY SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8**

Please send cover letter and resume to:
board@gaods.org

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
2350 E. Dempster Street, Des Plaines IL 60016
847-827-5519 Ext. 104
gaods.org

†LOVE OF GOD †LOVE OF NEIGHBOR †LOVE OF LEARNING



WE ARE HIRING!

GREEK LANGUAGE TEACHER - SATURDAY SCHOOL

We are looking for an educator with a passion for the Greek language, history, and culture, as well as a commitment to fostering and preserving children's Greek identity within the context of the Greek Orthodox Christian faith.

- The ideal candidate will create a supportive learning environment and inspire students through Greek heritage and traditions.
- Responsibility, teamwork, and a heart for serving children and the community are essential. Teaching experience is valued, with Ellinomatheia preparation considered an asset.

Individuals interested in joining our school family and contributing to the education and cultural growth of the next generation of the Greek-American community are encouraged to contact us.

**TO APPLY, PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME AND LETTER OF
INTEREST TO: VANA.CHRISTOPOULOS@GMAIL.COM**



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 321/2026

Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Day of Remembrance of Hagia Sophia
July 24, 2026

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Presvyteres and Diakonisses, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

**She is the effulgence of eternal light and the immaculate mirror of God's energy, and
the image of His goodness
(Wisdom of Solomon 7:26.)**

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We mark this anniversary – the sixth to date – not only as a Day of Remembrance for Hagia Sophia's misappropriation to an alien purpose, but also as a day of remembering Her essential role in the ongoing mission of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. For She, the Great Church, is a holy temenos – a sacred space that refracts the light of the sun in manifold and wondrous ways, manifesting how the Church is to transmit the Divine Light within the hearts and souls of Her Faithful. And even though the worship within Her material walls no longer ascribes glory to the Triune God of Heaven, Her very presence still radiates through Her spiritual counterpart, the Great Church of Christ, that is, our Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

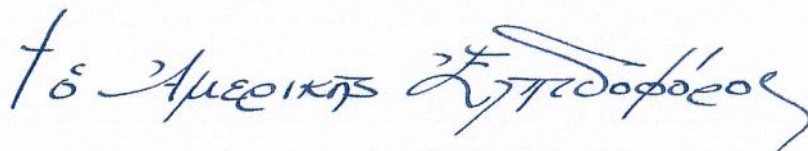
We say, "Constantinople," not to be ahistorical; for the modern naming of the "Queen of Cities" is a fact of geography and topography. But there is more to a "place" than its physical character. The spiritual essence of Hagia Sophia lives on in the Sacred

See of Saint Andrew, which not only predates the physical "Great Church" but also bears the apostolic witness of the First-Called Disciple, who announced for the very first time in human history, "We have found the Messiah!" (John 1:41). Thus, the Sacred Lighthouse of the Phanar, which is the spiritual embodiment of Christian Constantinople, continues to pour forth rays of God's loving splendor and is a polished mirror for all Christians, through which they can behold how their actions reflect the goodness and will of God.

And though we are deprived of the structure of Hagia Sophia, we have, in the sacred person of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a living icon of all She represents. His ongoing Patriarchal ministry, the longest in the history of the Church, is a shining reflection of the Great Church, leading our Holy Orthodox Church in ways of righteousness and truth, often at great sacrifice and even in the face of opposition from Christian brethren pursuing alien purposes. Nevertheless, by God's abundant mercy, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew "presses on toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

Therefore, let us not observe our Day of Remembrance for Hagia Sophia "as those with no hope" (I Thessalonians 4:13). We have a lively hope in our Mother Church of Constantinople, and in a living image of God's goodness, the person of His All-Holiness, whose humble greatness reflects the glory of the Great Church of Christ.

With paternal love in the Lord,



+ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 321/2026

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος στην ημέρα μνήμης της Αγίας Σοφίας.

24 Ιουλίου 2026

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρους καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Απογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὁργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Απαύγασμα γάρ ἐστὶ φωτὸς αἰδίου καὶ ἔσοπτρον ἀκηλίδωτον τῆς τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐνεργείας καὶ εἰκὼν τῆς ἀγαθότητος αὐτοῦ» (Σοφία Σολομώντος 7:26).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Τιμοῦμε αὐτὴν τὴν ἔκτη ἐπέτειο, ὅχι μόνον ὡς ἡμέρα μνήμης γιὰ τὴν χρῆση τῆς Αγίας Σοφίας μὲ σκοποὺς ξένους πρὸς τὴν κατασκευὴ της, ἀλλὰ καὶ ὡς ἡμέρα μνήμης γιὰ τὸν πρωταγωνιστικὸ ρόλο ποὺ διαδραματίζει γιὰ τὴν ἱερὰ ἀποστολὴ τῆς ἐκκλησίας τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διότι ἐκείνη, ἡ «Μεγάλῃ Ἐκκλησίᾳ», ἀποτελεῖ ἓνα ἱερὸ τέμενος, ἓναν καθαγιασμένο χώρο, ὁ ὁποῖος διαθλά τὸ φῶς τοῦ ἡλίου μὲ ποικίλους καὶ θαυμαστοὺς τρόπους, φανερώνοντας πῶς ἡ ἐκκλησία καλεῖται νὰ μεταδίδει τὸ θεῖο φῶς στὶς καρδιές τῶν πιστῶν της. Καὶ παρ' ὅλο ποὺ ἡ λατρεία ἐντὸς τῶν τειχῶν της δὲν ἀναπέμπει πλέον δόξα πρὸς τὸν ἐν οὐρανοῖς τριαδικὸ Θεό, ἡ ἴδια ἡ παρουσία της συνεχίζει νὰ ἀκτινοβολεῖ μέσα ἀπὸ τὸ πνευματικὸ της ἀντίστοιχο, τὴ Μεγάλῃ τοῦ Χριστοῦ Ἐκκλησίᾳ, δηλαδὴ τὸ Οἰκουμενικὸ Πατριαρχεῖο Κωνσταντινουπόλεως.

Λέμε «Κωνσταντινούπολη» όχι επειδή παραγνωρίζουμε την ιστορική πραγματικότητα της σύγχρονης ονομασίας της «βασιλίδος τῶν πόλεων», ὡς γεωγραφικὸ δεδομένο. Σὲ ἕναν «τόπο» ἀναγνωρίζουμε κάτι περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὴν ὑλική του ὑπόσταση. Ἡ πνευματικὴ οὐσία τῆς Ἀγίας Σοφίας συνεχίζει νὰ ζεῖ στὴν Ἱερὴ Καθέδρα τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα, ἡ ὁποία ὄχι μόνον προϋπάρχει τοῦ οἰκοδομήματος τῆς «Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας», ἀλλὰ φέρει καὶ τὴν ἀποστολικὴ μαρτυρία τοῦ πρωτοκλήτου μαθητοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος διακήρυξε γιὰ πρώτη φορὰ στὴν ἀνθρώπινη ἱστορία: «εὗρήκαμεν τὸν μεσσίαν» (Ἰωάν. 1,41). Ἐτσι, ὁ ἱερός φάρος τοῦ Φαναρίου, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀποτελεῖ τὴν πνευματικὴ ἐνσάρκωση τῆς χριστιανικῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, συνεχίζει νὰ ἐκπέμπει τὶς ἀκτῖνες τῆς στοργικῆς λαμπρότητας τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ νὰ ἀποτελεῖ ἕναν καθαρὸ καὶ στιλπνὸ καθρέφτη γιὰ ὅλους τοὺς χριστιανούς, μέσα ἀπὸ τὸν ὁποῖο μποροῦν νὰ διακρίνουν κατὰ πόσον οἱ πράξεις τους ἀντανάκλουν τὴν ἀγαθότητα καὶ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Καὶ μολοντί ἔχουμε ἀποστερηθεῖ τοῦ κηρίου τῆς Ἀγίας Σοφίας, στὸ ἱερὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Αὐτοῦ Θειοτάτης Παναγιότητος, τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου κ. κ. Βαρθολομαίου, διαθέτουμε τὴ ζωντανὴ εἰκόνα ὅλων ὧσων ἐκείνη ἀντιπροσωπεύει. Ἡ ἀδιάκοπη πατριαρχικὴ του διακονία, ἡ μακροβιότερη στὴν ἱστορία τῆς ἐκκλησίας, ἀποτελεῖ λαμπρὴ ἀντανάκλαση τῆς «Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας» καὶ καθοδηγεῖ τὴν μία, ἁγία, ὀρθόδοξη καὶ καθολικὴ ἐκκλησία μας στὴν ὁδὸ τῆς δικαιοσύνης καὶ τῆς ἀλήθειας, συχνὰ μὲ μεγάλες θυσίες, ἐναντίον ἐχθρῶν ἀλλὰ ἀκόμη καὶ χριστιανῶν ἀδελφῶν, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἐπιδιώκουν σκοποὺς ξένους πρὸς τὴν ἐκκλησιαστικὴ ἀποστολή. Παρ' ὅλα αὐτά, μὲ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαῖος «διώκει ἐπὶ τὸ βραβεῖον τῆς ἄνω κλήσεως τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ» (Φιλιπ. 3,14).

Ἄς μὴν τιμοῦμε, λοιπόν, τὴν ἡμέρα μνήμης τῆς Ἀγίας Σοφίας «καθὼς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ οἱ μὴ ἔχοντες ἐλπίδα» (Α' Θεσσ. 4,13). Διατηροῦμε ζωντανὴ τὴν ἐλπίδα στὴν Μητέρα Ἐκκλησία τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως καὶ στὸν ζώντα Θεό, τοῦ ὁποῖου ἡ χάρις ἀντανάκλᾳ στὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Αὐτοῦ Θειοτάτης Παναγιότητος, πὺρ μὲ τὸ ταπεινὸ μεγαλεῖο του δοξάζει τὴ Μεγάλῃ τοῦ Χριστοῦ Ἐκκλησίᾳ.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

Ὁ Ἀμερικὴς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

+Ὁ Ἀμερικὴς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

Golden Agers

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Holy Transfiguration Monastery
for the Feast of the Transfiguration
Thursday, August 6
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St. John the Baptist
Call Sue Scordas
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SAINTS COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK

	Mon, 27	Tues, 28	Wed, 29	Thurs, 30	Fri, 31	Sat, 1
July	Panteleimon the Great Martyr, Nicholas of Novgorod	Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon, Irene of Chrysovalantou	Kallinikos of Asia Minor, Theodota and her Children	Silas & Silvanos of the 70, Julitta of Caesaria	Forefeast of the Precious Cross, Joseph of Arimathea	Procession of the Holy Cross, Seven Maccabees, Eleazar
August						