



# Main Church Iconography

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

*Sponsor an Icon today!*



## ***St. Irene the Great Martyr***

*May 5*



Saint Irene was the daughter of a pagan ruler called Licinius. She was named Penelope by her parents, but through a divine revelation she was brought to faith in Christ and at baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety, she broke to pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses as punishment. As she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayer, she raised him to life again, and he believed and was baptized.

Afterwards, in many journeyings, Saint Irene suffered torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working miracles and converting many thousands of souls.

At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. At least two churches were dedicated to Saint Irene in Constantinople, and she is also the patroness of the Aegean island of Thera, more commonly known as Santorini, a combination of 'Saint Irene.'

*Apolytikion: O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.*