



# Friends

NEWSLETTER

St. Augustine, FL ~ Spring Issue 2017

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© GOA/Dimitrios Panagos  
Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America with Fr. Joseph Samaan in the Chapel of St. Photios

## ***St. Photios Foundation: Annual Meeting, Trustees Dinner and National Shrine Feast Day Banquet***

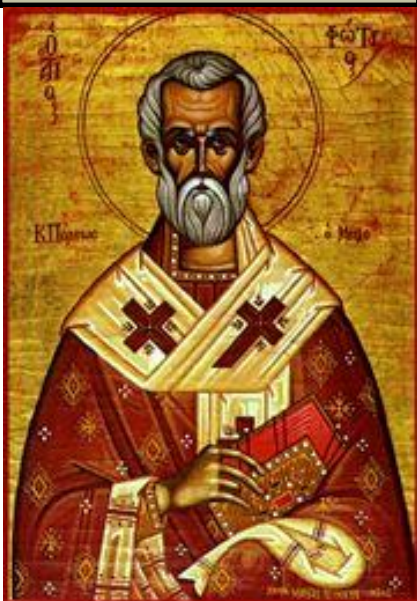
On February 4, the St. Photios Foundation convened for its annual meeting at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine, FL. Foundation President, His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and all of the trustees for their sacrifice of time, talents and resources for St. Photios Shrine. His Eminence welcomed visiting hierarch, His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA, and The Honorable Adamantia Klotsa, Consul General of Greece, Tampa Office. His Eminence then turned the meeting over to Shrine Foundation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Archon Dr. Manuel N. Tissura after a moment of silence in remembrance of trustee, George Stratigos (SF), who fell asleep in the Lord on January 13<sup>th</sup>. May his memory be eternal.

Dr. Tissura, introduced the HCHC ambassadors:

Demetrios Constantine, Bailie Henry, Sophia Petrou, and Seraphim Ramos. He thanked Mrs. Helen Carlos for once again, sponsoring the students' visit to St. Augustine. Dr. Tissura welcomed returning trustees, first-time trustees, Margo Kelley and Pete Carantza, and the many visitors in attendance.

After a rigorous meeting, trustees proceeded to St. Photios Shrine for a tour of the recently completed Creed Room. The Hierarchs' Exhibit was completed and blessed in June 2016. Shrine architect Ted Pappas and manufacturer Bill Loehle completed the icon cases in January 2017.

The Trustees Dinner began at 7p.m. that night. Greetings were offered by Seraphim Ramos, on behalf Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology; Barbara Stavis Wolf, on behalf of the Daughters of Penelope; and Dr. John Grosomanides, on behalf of AHEPA. Shrine Director,





## **The Feast of St. Photios** **February 6, 2017**



**Archbishop Demetrios assisted by Fr. Nicholas Louh and Fr. Joseph Samaan, Archdeacon Panteleimon, and Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis**

Flowers framed the narthex icons in the chapel of St. Photios as Protopsaltis Demetrios Constantine led the HCHC ambassadors in chant with Archon Philip Yamalis. Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, St. Augustine mayor Nancy Shaver, and Greek Consul General of the Tampa consulate, Adamantia Klotsa joined the faithful as His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, officiated the ecclesiastical services celebrating the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of the Shrine, Photios I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. His Eminence was assisted by Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh, V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Samaan, and Deacon Athanasios Kartsonis.

Archbishop Demetrios spoke of the scholarly contributions of St. Photios at the conclusion of the services. His Eminence encouraged the faithful to read the writings of this highly esteemed theologian. Mrs. Hillier welcomed the distinguished guests who offered His Eminence and the St. Photios Foundation congratulations on the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Shrine.

Mayor Shaver and Consul General Klotsa spoke highly of the strong relationship between their offices and the Shrine. Shaver said, "My fellow members of the St. Augustine City Commission and the people of St. Augustine join with you in celebrating the 35th anniversary of the dedication of the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. The Greek community has greatly enriched St. Augustine, both in its rich history and culture. And certainly, the National Shrine is a treasure that all of us, whether of Greek heritage or not, are very proud to claim as our own."

His Eminence took note of the Pioneering Priests exhibit, which was a special exhibit installed two years ago by curators, Drs. William and Regine Samonides. This was a first time visit for many to see the new permanent exhibit, The Three Hierarchs of St. Photios Shrine. All then departed for brunch, hosted by the staff and volunteers at the



**Polly Hillier, Fr. Nicholas Louh, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Archdeacon Panteleimon and OCMC Executive Director, Fr. Martin Ritsi**

Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) located seven miles west of the presidio of St. Augustine.

As part of the celebration of the Feast of St. Photios, OCMC held a "Go to All Nations" reception at the Mission and Training Center following the Archierachal Divine Liturgy at St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. Over 100 people attended the reception that capped the weekend celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine.

Archbishop Demetrios, chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, OCMC Board President John Colis, OCMC's founding director, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Bishop Gregory of Nyssa all spoke following the warm welcome offered by Father Martin Ritsi, OCMC Executive Director. It was not only an opportunity for the two institutions to host their presiding hierarch, Archbishop Demetrios, but also to celebrate his birthday with him as well. May God grant him many years!

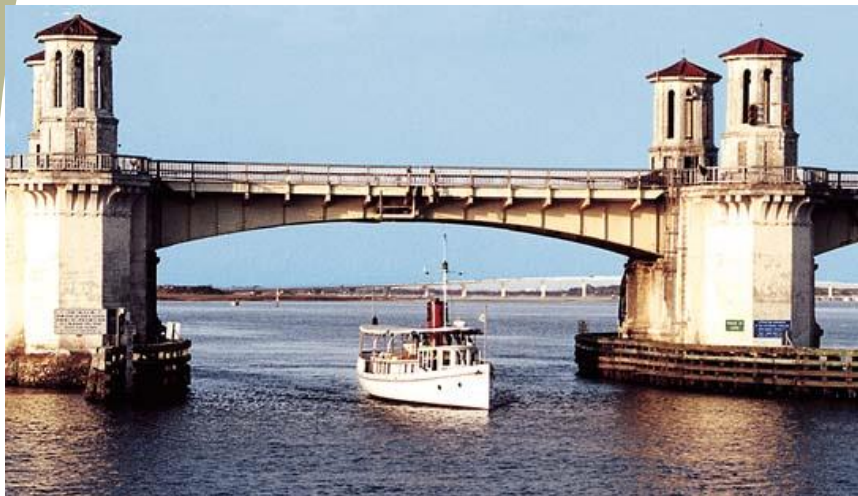


**Archbishop Demetrios escorted by Shrine First VP, Archon Dr. Manuel N. Tissura and Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh**





## SHRINE TO CELEBRATE 249<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GREEKS LANDING IN THE NEW WORLD

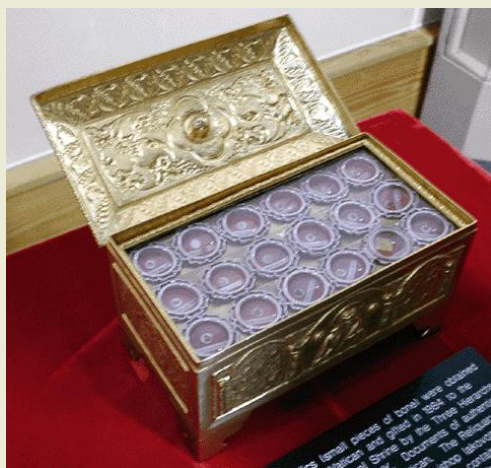


Scenic Cruise of St. Augustine passing under the Bridge of Lions.

The parish council and Philoptochos of Holy Trinity, St. Augustine are hosting Greek Landing Day 2017. On Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, matins, Divine Liturgy and the memorial of the hundreds of Orthodox who came to America with the Turnbull Colony in 1768, will be celebrated in the St Photios Chapel.

The Greek Landing Day Committee has planned an evening Harbor Cruise for Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Participants are invited to meet at the municipal marina to board the Victory III at 6:30 p.m.. The donation of \$25.00 includes the cruise and appetizers. Beverages will be for sale on board.

### *The Relics of the St. Photios Shrine*



The Relics are located in the narthex of the St. Photios Chapel

There are 21 relics at the Shrine of St. Photios. Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory embedded the relics of Sts. Euphemia, Theodora and Solomoni into the Holy Table at the consecration of the St. Photios Chapel in February of 1985.

The other 18 relics were presented to the Shrine by the V. Rev. Eugene Pappas of Brooklyn, New York. He had obtained them through the Vatican. Each sacred bone fragment is contained with the Papal seal. Bishop John of Amorion (then Atlanta) made the relics available for veneration on June 23, 1984.

Today, the reliquary is encased in the chapel narthex. The public can venerate the remains of the following Saints: Peter, Paul, Titus of Crete, Helena, Constantine, Savaas, Anthony, John Chrysostom, Basil, Gregory of Nazianzos, Gregory of Nyssa, Cyril of Alexandria, Cyril of Jerusalem, Nicholas of Myra, Ambrosios, Haralambos and John of Damascus.

Archon Harry Tom Cavalaris, trustee emeritus and former 1<sup>st</sup> VP of St. Photios Foundation recognized his home parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the financial contributions they made in order for the Shrine to properly present these relics. He recognized Archon Ted Pappas, the Shrine architect, for creating the plan needed to manufacture the design envisioned by His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos. Mr. Cavalaris said at the most recent trustees meeting, "these relics are venerated by thousands of people every season. We pray, that through the intercessions of these 21 Saints, that our Shrine is blessed by God through the ages".





**Front Row (l-r): Dr. Steve and Vasso Poulos, Ted Pappas, Anthony Megas, Manuel Tissura, Bishop Dimitrios, Metropolitan Alexios, Bishop Gregory, Adamantia Klotsa, Polly Hillier, George Parandes. Second Row: Fr. Joseph Samaan, Seraphim Ramos, Alyssa Kyritsis, Helen Carlos, Sophia Petrou, Baillie Henry, Connie Gaitanis, Theodora Sergiou, Evangeline Mekras Scurtis, Joanne Stavarakas, Rose Papanickolas-McGrath, Leslye Alex Phillips, Pauline Sarantopoulos, Elaine Tissura, Sherry Kliossis. Third Row: Demetri Constantine, Margo Kelley, Phyllis Hawkins, Maria Carantzas, George Donkar, Angelo Kliossis, Philip Yamalis, Dn. Frank Dickos, Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh, Harry Tom Cavalaris**

Polly Hillier, then introduced the Keynote Speaker, the Honorable Adamantia Klotsa. Ms. Klotsa spoke warmly about the expectations, experiences and realities of working within the diplomatic corps. She praised the Church for its promotion of Hellenism and the Shrine for its witness of Greek immigration.

His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa officiated over the ecclesiastical services held on Sunday, February 5 in the Chapel of St. Photios. Rev. Father Martin Ritsi, Deacons Photios Dickos and Athanasios Kartsonis and acolytes Nicholas Kelley and Michael Lekos assisted. His Grace thanked Protopsaltis Demetrios Constantine, HCHC ambassadors, and Philip Yamalis for chanting the matins, Divine Liturgy and Founders' Memorial.

Festivities continued at the Casa Monica, where Archon Nicholas J. Furriss served as Master of Ceremonies for the National Shrine Feast Day Banquet. He recognized Archon and Mrs. Manuel Tissura for their decades of commitment in chairing this weekend.

Evan Mekras Scurtis offered greetings on behalf of Maria Logus and the National Ladies Philoptochos Society and presented a check for \$1,000 to the Shrine in honor of the 35th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine. HCHC Ambassador Demetri Constantine offered greetings on behalf of the students and thanked Helen Carlos for affording this opportunity to HCHC ambassadors. Connie Pilallis, past Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope, then offered greetings on behalf of her organization and spoke of the deep connection the members have with "Our Pilgrim Rock," St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine.

Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, assisted by Archon Dr. Manuel N. Tissura, bestowed the St. Photios Medal upon Archon Kastrinsios, Christo Daphnides, and Archon Depoutatos, Ted P. Pappas. Both had made significant contributions in promoting and enhancing St. Photios Shrine in 2016. His Grace then awarded certificates signed by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios to AHEPA Speedway Chapter 410 (St. Photios Service Award) and to Nicholas Aliferakis (Volunteer of the Year). He then called Essay participants and the Wall of Tribute subscribers forward to receive their signed certificates of participation.

After the banquet, Archon Nick Furriss called upon His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa to give his keynote address. His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa is the Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA. Born of immigrant parents from Greece, he is a son of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, NC, and founding member of Charlotte's second Greek Orthodox Church, St. Nektarios. He was nominated as an Episcopal Candidate by the priests of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese in July of 2012 and elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate the next month. His Consecration and Enthronement as the 4th Ruling Hierarchy of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese occurred on November 27, 2012.



**His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA, gives the keynote address**

Bishop Gregory currently serves as the Liaison of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA and is Chairman of the Committee of Agencies and Endorsed Organizations of the Assembly. He inspired all to witness their faith in all aspects of our life. The Foundation thanks the benefactors of this event: Leadership 100, the National Ladies' Philoptochos Society, Helen Carlos, and Alan and Leslye Alex Phillips, as well as every donor who made the 35th annual banquet a joyful success. The faithful then went to the Chapel of St. Photios where Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh and participating clergy celebrated Great Vespers in honor of the Feast of St. Photios. Missy Theodore donated the five loaves for the health and well being of her family and in honor of the Shrine.



## ***St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest***

Less than a dozen teenagers participate in this annual event, however, the competition for the three prizes is rigorous. Last year Amelia Antzoulatos of St. John the Theologian, Tenafly, NJ; Stephanie Edwards, St. Nektarios, Charlotte, NC; Christopher N. Karafotias, St. Andrew, Chicago, IL; Odysseas Vasillios Nikas, St. George, Chicago, IL; Cindy Samaan, St. Demetrios, Daytona, Beach, FL; Demetri Lagoutaris, Venetia Lagoutaris and Ellie Stamatogiannakis (St. John the Divine, Jacksonville, FL) submitted their essays based upon the immigrant story of a family member with the immigrant story of the Greeks who arrived in America with the Turnbull expedition in 1768, or, defending the historic and significant importance of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine as a historic and sacred place.



Judge John Alexander, AHEPA 410 President, Tom Stratis, Cindy Samaan, Ellie Stamatogiannakis, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Father Joseph Samaan

Ellie Stamatogiannakis placed first, Christopher Karafotias placed second, and Cindy Samaan placed third. Ellie and Cindy read their prize-winning essays to attendees celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine at the St. Photios National Shrine Day Banquet. All teens, ages 13-19 are encouraged to submit a 1000-word entry for the 2017 St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest by January 5, 2018. Visit [www.stphotios.com](http://www.stphotios.com) and click on Essay Contest!



## ***St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest***

***On behalf of the Essay Committee, Katherine P. Bacalis, chair, invites all teens, 13 to 19 years of age, to research and write on one of these two topics:***

**There are many historic and sacred sites throughout the world. What makes Saint Photios Greek Orthodox Shrine a historic and significant site for Greek Orthodox Christians?**

**Or**

**All Americans (other than those born of a Native American father and mother) born in the United States, can trace their family's history to an ancestor who came to America from a foreign country. Compare and contrast your family's immigrant history with the immigrant history of the New Smyrna Colonists of 1768.**

The Essay Committee accepts submissions throughout the year. The committee sends blind copies of the essays to three judges on January 5th. Once the judges have ranked the essays, they are returned to the committee. The three highest ranked essays and certificates of Participation are sent to His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios.

At that time the results are posted.

Prizes are awarded to the top 3 ranking essays: (first place) \$500, (second place) \$250 and (third place) \$100.

**The Essay Program is held in memory of Mrs. Kathie D'Anna and with the support of the AHEPA SPEEDWAY CHAPTER #410.**

All essays become property of St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. Please submit a cover page with your name, address, phone number, home parish where you worship and email address. **Deadline: January 5, 2018**





**Elaine Zetes and Rose Papanickolas McGrath**



**Angela, Michael and Andrew Lekos**



**First Vice President, Archon Dr. Manuel N. Tissura and Second Vice President, Anthony Megas**



**Thank you to those who donated their time and products to the I LOVE \_\_\_ Silent Auction.**



**Chuck Koukoulis, Archon Philip Yamalis, Archon George Donkar and Alan Phillips**



**Allan Hillier and Shrine Benefactor Helen Carlos**



**Adamantia Klotsa and Archon John Scurtis**



**Shrine Volunteer, Dr. Tony Tsitos with his wife Pamela**



**Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Nick Furriss, and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos**



**Sunday Banquet**



**Niko and Alyssa Kyrtis with Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos**



**HCHC Ambassadors with Helen Carlos and Polly Hiller**





**Archons Philip Yamalis, Steve Poulos, Ted Pappas, Christos Daphnides, Manuel Tissura, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Nick Furriss**



**HCHC Ambassadors Seraphim Ramos, Demetrios Constantine, Baillie Henry, Sophia Petrou with HCHC trustee Helen A Carlos and Alyssa Kyritsis, Pastoral Assistant at St. John the Divine**



**John Alexander, Tom Stratis and John Symeonides receive St. Photios Award on behalf of AHEPA #410**



**Shrine Volunteer of the Year Nicholas Aliferakis**



**Dimitri and Revekka Panagos**



**St. Photios Award Recipient Shrine Architect, Archon Ted Pappas with wife, MaryLee**



**St. Photios Trustee Margo Kelley with son, Niko**



**I LOVE Baskets for St. Photios Committee members Evgenia Mercado and Connie Gaitanis**



**2016 Wall of Tribute Subscribers with Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos**



**Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Polly Hillier**



**Essay Winners and Presenters Cindy Samaan and Ellie Stamatogiannakis**



**Post Event Super Bowl Party!**



**Adamantia Klotsa, Polly Hillier, Archon Dr. Manuel N. and Elaine Tissura**



## Friends of the Shrine



Shrine Friends Members GeeGee Angelopoulos, Polly Hillier and Leslye Alex Phillips



Metropolitan Alexios visits St. Photios during Dynamis Tour



St. John the Baptist, COME Conference, Portland OR, Bishop Anastasios of Kenya and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco



The AHEPA Brothers of Chapter 1 present Polly Hillier with a check for St. Photios and flowers to take home



Father Joseph Samaan and Georgette Kouri at Monks of Mt. Athos Presentation, Maitland, FL



COME Conference, Portland Oregon Musical Director, Presvytera Stacey Dorrance

### **We invite you to share in the future of the St. Photios National Shrine with a financial commitment to the witness and future of the Shrine.**

We can be proud of the tremendous achievement the St. Photios Shrine represents, but even as the Shrine is dedicated to those first Greek people who came to America in search of freedom and a better life for their children, we must in remembering them, look to the future so that we may preserve their rich heritage and perpetuate their high ideals. To honor the Shrine's many faithful supporters, the St. Photios Foundation has set aside a special recognition wall, fittingly called ***"The Wall of Tribute."***

We invite you to share in securing the future of the Shrine by making a financial commitment today. We invite you to add your name or the names of your loved ones to the list of special Shrine stewards by making a donation of \$2,000 or more.

For your generosity, we will inscribe the names of those you wish to honor in perpetuity, either living or in memory, on The Wall of Tribute.







## Bringing the Shrine to You



St. John the Divine Greek Festival  
Jacksonville, FL, February 17-19, 2017



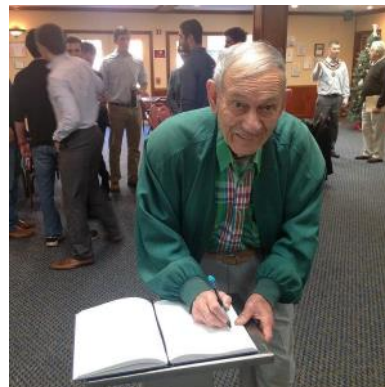
Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos Society  
11th Annual Spiritual Retreat  
March 17-19, 2017



Allan and Polly Hillier representing the Shrine at  
the St. Mark the Evangelist Greek Festival  
Ocala, FL, February 24-26, 2017



Sunday of Orthodoxy with Fr. Nick Manousakis at  
St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Ocala, FL



St. Augustine native, Pike Sarris at  
the AHEPA Mother Lodge, Chapter  
One. The Shrine was invited to pre-  
pare the September program at the  
monthly membership meeting



Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Donna Bacon at  
the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Festival in  
St Augustine, December 2-4, 2016



National Shrine Church Supplies (NSCS) is an important funding source of the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. NSCS offers parishes a large selection of candle sizes and types at low prices from a number of vendors located throughout the country. Inventory includes high quality incense, self-lighting charcoal, candle safety cups and the Shrine distinctive Epiphany Icon Holy Water Bottles!

The bottles were designed by His Grace, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and are still manufactured here in America! National Shrine Church Supplies offers competitive prices along with the opportunity to support our sacred and historic institution. All proceeds aid in preserving the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. Provide for your parish and support our First National Shrine! Call today to place your order...904.829.8205.



# Shrine Pilgrims and Visitors

Over a million people visit the Colonial Quarter each year and many visit our Shrine. They stop in while vacationing, or plan a visit to this sacred and historic site.

Specific groups plan tours, like those from the Florida Department of Education or Elderhostel, USA. Churches of many denominations schedule visits as well. However, when it is a church or institution of the Orthodox Church, the visit is then a pilgrimage.

Recently, pilgrims came from the GOYA of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Marietta, GA and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC. The weekend itineraries included worship, fellowship and learning something new.

The St. Photios Foundation thanks Rev. Paul Lundberg and Rev. Theodore Ehmer for bringing the youth and their chaperones to America's oldest city while sharing the resources of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center and St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine.

Let us help your parish tailor a trip for your group. Celebrate ecclesiastical services in the intimacy of St. Photios Chapel. Begin your day with a morning prayer walk on St. Augustine Beach. Learn firsthand what it means to be a missionary abroad. Worship in the chapel commemorating the memory of the first Greek colonists to America.

Metropolitan Alexios travelled to St. Photios Shrine en route to Orlando during the Metropolis of Atlanta Dynamis tour. He brought his staff to the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse and shared the story of New Smyrna survivor and entrepreneur, Ioannis Ioannopolis.

We also received with great joy, the nuns of the Annunciation Monastery, Ocala, FL. This was a first time visit for them to our National Shrine.



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte NC



Cousins of Father Nicholas Louh of St. John the Divine toured the Shrine: Ramzy and his twin brother, Father Gabriel of St. Joseph Friary in Harlem, NYC (both pictured on the left).



Metropolitan Alexios visits the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse



Pres. Athanasia and Fr. George Papademetriou indicating his beloved father of blessed memory, Fr. Constantine



Family Reunions!



Fourth Graders from Lake Worth, FL




Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Marietta, GA



Parishioners of St. George, Jacksonville, FL



## ***Memory Eternal Dear Brother in Christ***



George Theodore Stratigos, a life-long resident of Sausalito, CA, passed away unexpectedly on January 13, 2017 at the age of 55. Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco appointed George to the St. Photios Foundation in 2012. He is remembered for the passion and expertise he brought to all he did. May God give rest to his soul.

George was also very devoted to his family and was preceded in death by his loving parents Theodore and Helen, and is survived by his loving brothers and sisters-in-law John and his wife Lilika, along with their children Theo, Eleni and Demetri, Spiro and his wife Mary Kay, along with their children Niko and Sophia, and extended family throughout the world. We wish his family and church community comfort in remembering George's laughter and joy.



### ***Two Days After the Storm***

On October 7, 2016, Hurricane Matthew passed 30 miles east of St. Augustine with 115 mph winds. Many citizens in America's oldest city continue to struggle – the effect of which has not been seen since Hurricane Dora (September 10, 1964). We are grateful to God that the Avero House and St. Photios chapel remained intact. There was no breach of water anywhere in the building. Staff with volunteers, Jim Harker and Allan Hillier just had a bit of yard debris and limbs to clear off the Shrine's roof. Glory to God!

## ***2017 Board of Trustees***

### ***The St. Photios Foundation Welcomes the New Trustees***



**Pete Carantza** was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and was both baptized and married at St. John the Divine. Married for thirty-six years to Betty, they have two adult children, Alex who lives in NYC and Jessica Stevenson (Nick) of Jacksonville, along with three grand children, whom were also baptized in our parish. After a thirty-one year career with Sysco Food Services Company, serving the last twenty-five years in senior management positions within the company, Pete and Betty moved back to Jacksonville where he is currently employed by Firehouse Subs Corporate Headquarters as Director of Supply Chain Services. Pete presently serves as Parish Council President at St. John the Divine and served a previous term as a trustee of the St. Photios Shrine.



**Margo Toscas Kelley**, serves at Parish Council President to Holy Trinity, St. Augustine, FL. Born and baptized in the Chicago's Southside, Margo was raised in Joliet and attended All Saints Greek Orthodox Church. Youth ministry, The Young Adult Movement, and Orthodox Christian collaboration through Synergy, particularly, exposed her to broad Church initiatives long before her college years. She has served Church ministries (mostly related to youth, family, and philanthropy) and participated cross-jurisdictionally on local, regional, national, and international levels. She received her BA in Elementary Education from Illinois Wesleyan University (1990) and Master of Theological Studies from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (1993). Margo was blessed in Marriage to the former Antiochian Priest Edward Kelley, now of blessed memory. Their son, Nicholas, joins her in service to the local community of Holy Trinity Church, St. Photios National Shrine, and OCMC Mission Teams.



## **St. Photios Light-A-Candle Program**

St. Photios Shrine has become the “*kandili*” (vigil light) of our Church in America, it is also where prayer for one another takes place before the holy icons of the Saints, illumined by the prayers and sacrifices of our ancestors who came to this land.

On Saturday, February 27, 1982, a tradition began. On the dedication day of our National Shrine, the beautiful St. Photios Chapel came alive with the glow of candles lit in memory of the “*Protoporoi*”- our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who forged a new life in a strange land so that we might enjoy freedom and a better life.

Hundreds of candles were lit by the Greek Orthodox faithful present that day. Many however, were not able to be present for this historic event. They were able to participate in spirit. They submitted their names, the names of loved ones and the names of their ancestors for us to light a candle and offer up a prayer here in the chapel on their behalf.

It is nothing less than a privilege to give honor and memory to our ancestors, it is nothing less than God’s Grace that we may pray for the health and well-being and in memory of those whom we love. We are humbled and honored to offer prayers for on your behalf.

We welcome you to continue this tradition and support the St. Photios Shrine Light-a-Candle Program. Send in the names of your loved ones today.



## **St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine**



**St. Augustine, FL** -- St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is located in the Colonial Quarter of St. Augustine, FL. It is a sacred and historical site built in memory of the 500 Greeks who came to America with the Turnbull expedition in 1768. The chapel has a reliquary with the bone fragments of 18 saints of the early Church in the narthex and the relics of 3 female saints in the altar. The chapel and museum occupy the historic Averro House – a 2-story structure that was built in the 1740’s, razed and then reconstructed. In 1982, the Shrine opened with a clear mission to actively witness Orthodox Christianity, share the Hellenic culture and honor the memory of all immigrants who came to America in quest of a new life.

### **Contact Us**

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