

### **PASTORAL VISITATIONS**

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or “shut-ins,” so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.



### **ST. MARKELLA OF CHIOS**

**July 22**

St. Markella was born and lived in the village of Volissos of Chios and lived during the fourteenth century. Her mother was a devout christian but her father was an idolater. At a young age, her mother passed away and Markella continued to study her bible, pray to God and live a life according to what she was taught.

Her father began to have sinful desires for Markella. By the time she had reached her eighteenth birthday, her father's desires had begun to show and his behaviour resulted in Markella leaving home. She went to a nearby mountain and hid in a bush. Her father found her, with the help of a local herdsman, and they set fire to the bush to force her to show.

Markella ran to the sea to escape but her father aimed an arrow at her and wounded her. The blood of the [saint](#) dyed the rocks and to this very day, during the festivities for her feast day, at a specific time, her blood becomes visible on these rocks for all the faithful who bear witness to this miracle.

Her final moments were spent in prayer to Christ with a request that the rocks would open for her to hide from her father and this happened. Everything but her head was covered so when her father found her, he cut off her head and threw it into the sea. Her head floated to the nearby beach of Komi. For many years, the locals could not locate the head until one day an Italian Naval ship was in the area. In the evening, they could see a bright light coming from the distance and when they got closer they witnessed a head, floating in the water, lit by upright floating candles. Immediately, they realised that this was a sacred miracle they were witness to and they took the head of the Saint back to their homeland.

Holy water is said to spring from the rocks that mark her martyrdom. Many pilgrims visit this location and every year on the [22nd of July](#), during the commemoration services for the Saint, the holy sea water in the rock pool boils during the entire Paraklisis Service; this phenomenon only occurs in the presence of a [priest](#). If a pilgrim's faith is strong, a local tradition is that the water in the rock-pool will feel extremely warm to touch.

### **APOLYTIKION**

Rose of piety and sprout of Chios, we honour with canticles Saint Markella who was beheaded by her father's hand, as she guarded the commands of Christ, give strength and save from danger, us who cry unto you. Glory to Him who gave you strength, glory to Him who crowned you. Glory to Him who works through you, healings for all the faithful.

## **ST. GEORGE BULLETIN**

### **SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE ECUMENICAL COUNCILS**

**JULY 18, 2010**



Today the Holy Church commemorates all the Holy Fathers of the seven Ecumenical Councils whose spirituality, intellectual tenacity, and complete dedication resulted in the fundamental doctrines in which we believe. To a Church that is “Orthodox” doctrine is precious. Doctrine tells the world THIS is what we believe. Doctrine proclaims THIS is the truth of faith — outside of which one is in error. The Fathers who struggled to formulate Orthodox doctrine, based on Sacred Scripture and Apostolic Tradition, hold a special place in the Church. They gave ultimate testimony to the rightness of Orthodoxy. They handed down to subsequent centuries the one Holy Tradition to be believed by all, in all places. O Holy fathers of the Ecumenical Councils, pray to God that we might rightly believe.

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion**

By means of Your Cross, O Lord, You abolished death. \* To the robber You opened Paradise. \* The lamentation of the myrrhbearing women You transformed, \* and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all \* that You had risen, O Christ our God, \* and granted the world Your great mercy.

### **Apolytikion of the Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils**

Blessed are you, o Christ our God! You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them, you have guided us to the True Faith. O greatly compassionate one, Glory to You!

### **THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE**

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Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,  
Emeritus

**EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15**

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

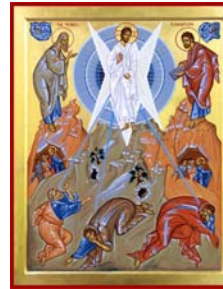
**GOSPEL Matthew 5:14-19**

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."



**THE FATHERS OF THE ECUMENICAL COUNCILS**

On the Sunday that falls from the 13th to the 19th of the present month, we chant the Service to the Holy and God-bearing Fathers who came together in the Seven Ecumenical Councils, that is: the First Council, of the 318 Fathers who assembled in Nicaea in 325 to condemn Arius, who denied that the Son of God is consubstantial with the Father; the Fathers of the First Council also ordained that the whole Church should celebrate Pascha according to the same reckoning; the Second Council, of the 150 Fathers who assembled in Constantinople in 381 to condemn Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied the Divinity of the Holy Spirit; the Third Council, of the 200 Fathers who assembled in Ephesus in 431, to condemn Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who called Christ a mere man and not God incarnate; the Fourth Council, of the 630 who assembled in Chalcedon in 451, to condemn Eutyches, who taught that there was only one nature, the divine, in Christ after the Incarnation, and Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who illegally received Eutyches back into communion and deposed Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, who had excommunicated Eutyches; the Fifth Council in 535, of the 165 who assembled in Constantinople for the second time to condemn Origen and Theodore of Mopsuestia, the teacher of Nestorius; the Sixth Council in 680, of the 170 who assembled in Constantinople for the third time, to condemn the Monothelite heresy, which taught that there is in Christ but one will, the divine; and the Seventh Council in 787, of the 350 who assembled in Nicaea for the second time to condemn Iconoclasm.



**SPECIAL DIVINE SERVICES FOR AUGUST**

The month of August is a liturgically rich one for the Orthodox Church. On **Sunday, August 1**, the Dormition Fast begins in preparation for the feast on August 15. On Friday, **August 6**, we celebrate the **Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ**. Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy, followed by the Blessing of Grapes, will be at 9:30 a.m. Prior to the Feast of the Dormition, the Church celebrates the **Paraklesis** — a powerful and fervent hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos. **We will join in praying the Paraklesis at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 2, Wednesday, August 4, Monday, August 9, Wednesday, August 11, and Friday, August 13.** Prayer sheets will be available for you to write down the names of people for whom you wish to be prayed at the Paraklesis.



On **Saturday, August 14**, we will join our brothers and sisters at the parish of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in Winchester, Virginia for Great Vespers of the feast, at 6:00 p.m. On **Sunday, August 15**, we will celebrate the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos with Orthros at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Please make every effort to attend these Divine Services during August, asking the grace of the Transfigured Lord and the

**PRAYER LIST:** Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, Marilyn Kauffman, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios and PFC Brett Hughes.

intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos. As a good work to celebrate the feast, please consider making a donation to the Bishop George Fund which supports our ministries and the appointing of the Sanctuary for Divine Services.



**FEAST OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS**

**Tuesday, July 20**, is the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias. Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

**Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone**

The incarnate Angel, the Cornerstone of the Prophets, the second Forerunner of the Coming of Christ, the glorious Elias (Elijah), who from above, sent down to Elisha the grace to dispel sickness and cleanse lepers, abounds therefore in healing for those who honor him.



**MEMORIALS**

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Michalistsa Matsangakis (1 Year)**, requested by her sister Maria Comninos and her brothers Pierre and George Matsangakis.; and for **Koula Harris (10 Years) and Arthur Harris (48 Years)** requested by their family, Maria (Harris) and Ted Roumel and their children, Eleni and Jonathan. May their memories be eternal!