

**The Orthodox Parish
of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
Lancaster, UK.**

The Stavronian

Monthly magazine and newsletter publicised by the Holy Cross Synodia



*Ἐθρονος Χριστός Ζωοδότης.
(Φ. Κόντογλου, 1962).*

*The Parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland.
The Patriarchate of Antioch is third senior of the Orthodox Churches.
The Patriarch is His Beatitude John X.*

***The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch
(Acts 11:26)***

SAYINGS FROM THE FATHERS

The goal of reading is the application, in our lives, of what we read. Not to learn it by heart, but to take it to heart. Not to practice using our tongues, but to be able to receive the tongues of fire and to live the mysteries of God.

St Paisios the Athonite

GOD BE WITH YOU

It is a little known fact that the etymology of the word **Goodbye** is a contraction of the term “*God be with ye (you)*”. In the 16th through to the 19th century this was a common way of bidding “farewell”; may you fare (go) well. In much the same way in other languages one contracted word indicates a commendation of the other person to God’s keeping when parting company:

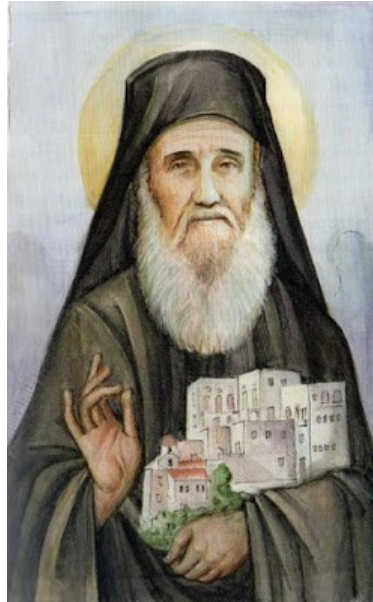
Adieu (French)
Adios (Spanish)
Antio (Greek)
Adeus (Portuguese)
Addio (Italian)

In earlier times and occasionally today you still will hear the term “God-speed” which comes from the Middle English phrase God spede, “*may God cause you to succeed*”, from God + spede, singular subjunctive of speden “to prosper”.

Perhaps there is both a goodly and Godly reason for those of faith to once more recover the fullness of the meaning when bidding farewell to someone.

May God be with you and may God prosper you all.

Fr Jonathan



St Amphilochios of Patmos

WE HAVE A NEW SAINT: ST AMPHILOCHIOS, THE ELDER OF PATMOS

At its regular Meeting of Wednesday, 29th August 2018, the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, decided the Consecration to Sainthood of the Elder, Father Ampilochios, founder of the Holy Monastery of ‘The Annunciation of our Lady’ on the sacred island of Patmos, Greece.

Born Athanasios Makris in 1889 to parents Emmanuel and Irene in Patmos, the Elder of blessed memory, at the age of 17 entered the Holy Monastery of St John the Evangelist in 1906. The same year he was tonsured a monk of the Small Schema, receiving the name Amphilochios.

In 1911, Fr Amphilochios fulfilled a lifelong dream of visiting the Holy Moun-

tain of Athos in northern Greece. He served there under the very strict Abbott of the Hermitage of Apollós, Fr Makarios Antoniadis who tonsured him a monk of the Great Schema in 1913. The same year, with the permission of his Spiritual Father he set out to visit Jerusalem and the Holy Lands. On his way, he met the then Metropolitan Nektarios of Pentapolis, later Saint Nektarios of Aegina, with whom he had a lifelong friendship which continues now in Heaven.

Having been ordained to the priesthood, Fr Amphilochios was elected unanimously by the Brotherhood of St John the Evangelist, Abbott of the Holy Monastery of St John of the Revelation. In this position, his love and gentleness reached out to the people of God who revered him with the utmost respect. Though he was gentle, he stood up to the Italian invaders of the Dodecanese Islands of Greece and refused to allow these holy islands to fall under the jurisdiction of the Pope of Rome. For his outspoken resistance against the Italian invaders he was exiled and settled in Northern Greece. After World War Two and the Independence of the Dodecanese Islands, Fr Amphilochios returned and established the Women's Monastery of St Minas on the island of Aegina, whilst in 1954 he re-established the Holy Monastery of the 'Annunciation of our Lady' at the island of Ikaria.

After a brief illness, Fr Amphilochios slept in the Lord on April 16th, 1970 on the holy island of Patmos. His funeral, rather than being a mournful event, turned out to be a joyous and pascal Service. Fr Amphilochios the Elder of Patmos is the newest Saint of the Orthodox Church. May we always have his blessing.

*St Amphilochios of Patmos,
intercede to Christ for our salvation, Amen.*

Source: [Apanta Orthodoxias blog](#)



The first Liturgy after the canonisation of St Amphilochios was celebrated in the Monastery of Evangelismos in Patmos, Greece. Source: The local e-newspaper "[Patmiaka Chronika](#)".

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST HAS A NEW SAINT!

It was with great joy that we received the news of the Canonisation from the Oecumenical Patriarchate Holy Synod of the Elder of Patmos Fr. Amphilochios Makris on the 29th of August!

The Canonisation was by no means a surprise to the Patmians. The humble and meek Elder who was born on the island in 1888 and reposed in 1970 was well-known to his compatriots, not only for his Sainly life since early childhood but also for his numerous miracles! These were known all over Greece and the Orthodox world, even though the Sisters of the Annunciation Monastery he founded (1937) while an Abbott of the St John the Theologian Monastery did not broadcast them, owing to their monastic humility.

Numerous miracles were performed by him, both when he was in the Church Militant, and many more since he left us for the Triumphant Church! His quality as a "chosen vessel" (Acts 9,15) was shown when he was still an infant. He refused his mother's milk on the Fasting days of Wednesday and Friday and on

Holy and Good Fridays he slept all day, waking up only towards the end of the day to eat very little! Moderation and love for fasting was one of his major characteristics during his entire life. However, it should be noted that miracles and signs of God were always in his life, as his parents were very pious and people of prayer. One day his father Manolis was seen by both the Elder's mother Irini and his uncle to be working in the field along with another person who was actually not there! It was such a vivid image that Irini prepared lunch both for her husband and his co-worker! They finally realised it was Manolis' Guardian Angel and as Manolis admitted he had indeed produced double the work that day! The young Elder himself miraculously had his eye healed by St George from an illness that required an operation. He also saw St John the Theologian on numerous occasions from his early youth and he had a great reverence towards him.

As the Elder grew, and with the encouragement of his pious parents, he associated with Patmian ascetics and monks, learning near them the *niptic* life and mental Jesus Prayer. During his entire life he strived to associate with holy men, and his friendship with St Nektarios, St Justin Popovic and Filotheos Zervakos were characteristic cases. An important miracle in his life was performed by St Nektarios when he had a wound on his leg. He took a piece of his Relics and after fervent Prayer he said to the Saint: "Are we not good friends? You can do your Miracle since I am so tortured by this wound". He was completely well by next morning!

The now Eldress of the Annunciation Monastery, Nun Christonymphi, i.e. Bride of Christ, told us: *"I became a Nun at 22. My mother was not present as she disagreed with my ordination. When she found out she came to Patmos to complain to the Elder. When she heard my Monastic*

name she broke in tears and fell to her knees to kiss his feet, especially when he told her that he wanted to give me a different name but for some reason he pronounced "Christonymphi". She said to him that when she was left a widow with 5 children, the Theotokos appeared in her dream and said: *"Do not worry about your children. They will all go well in life and one of them will become a Bride of Christ!"*. The Elder told her that she too would become a Nun at a later stage in her life and after his repose, something that she heard with utter disbelief but it became true! ... One day I was in his Cell for some work and he asked me to stay and Pray with him. I knelt down and prayed for some time until I couldn't hear his breath any more. I looked up and saw him Praying a few meters above the ground and "bathed" in the light of Divine Grace! ... He insisted that I receive the Great Schema before Easter of 1970 because as he warned us he would not celebrate it with us!"

Indeed as he secretly said to another Spiritual child who insisted, he was visited by the Theotokos and St John Theologian who told him that the Easter of 1970 he would celebrate in Heaven. He reposed on 16th April 1970. The moment his Soul left his body, an earthquake occurred and a little girl awoken by it, told her grandmother: *"Do you know why this happened? It's because Elder Amphilochios died!"*

Numerous miracles have occurred after his repose too. He healed people from severe illnesses, appeared to others as if he was alive, while others saw light from his tomb. We shall list only few of the less known ones. A group of pilgrims visited the Annunciation Monastery. An 18-year-old boy was wearing shorts and thus was not allowed past a certain point within the premises. He sat there admiring the place when an elderly Monk ap-

peared and spoke to him, and even told him that he needn't worry about the results of his recent University entry exams as he'd definitely pass. When they left the Monastery, he saw in a book they had bought, the photograph of the Elder and realised he had slept over 20 years ago! Needless to say that the result of his exams was a successful one! There have been two more similar appearances as such and generally his presence around the Monastery has been felt by many people such as a taxi driver who waited outside the Monastery and heard footsteps along with the sound of a walking stick and a possessed lady who visited the Monastery and during a Vespers service started shouting "I would have done a lot to destroy this Monastery but this Amphilo-chios keeps going around it and won't let me"!

A Patmian gentleman described the following incident: I was about 14 when his Relics were exhumed. I was doing some chores in the Annunciation Monastery when one of the Nuns brought me his Holy Skull for veneration. I said "Sister, it has a strong smell"! The Nun asked "What smell? Is it unpleasant? I can't smell anything"... "No Sister! It's an amazing smell of basil-flowers"! ... A friend of mine was seriously ill and that evening they gave him to drink a sip of wine from the one they had washed his Relics with. Next morning he was completely well! We should note here that the basil-flower smell has been noted by many people who venerate his Holy Relics.

Another Patmian remembers: I asked to visit and venerate his Cell. At that time I was wondering whether the Russian Romanov family were indeed Saints or they were wrongly Canonised and the question really haunted me. As I entered the Cell, I noticed above the Elder's bed, a photograph of the Romanov family... As I approached, the Nun said to me (it was not yet obvious that I was looking at that par-

ticular photo): "You can see that the Elder had a great respect for the Romanov family and had honoured them as Saints well before their Glorification"!

May we always have his God-convincing intercessions in our lives.

K. V.

Patmos, Greece



OLD STAVRONIAN CORNER

We have heard from one of our dear Old Stavronians Kostya Holubev, who was a member of the parish in the years 2005-2008. At the end of the summer, Kostya went to Solovetsky Monastery located on the Solovetsky Islands in the White Sea in northern Russia. In a group of young Orthodox, he visited Bolshoy Solovetsky, Anzer Island, and other islands. The post cards which he sent of Anzer Island really shows the beauty and serenity of this place. He also sent an Icon of the founders of the Solovetsky Monastery, Saints Zosimas, Savvaty (Sabbatius), Her-

man and Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow. During Philip's time, as Hegumen of the Monastery, the monks constructed cathedrals, water-wells and a network of canals connecting the lakes at Bolschoy Solovesky Island. Kostya sends his warm greetings, and wishes blessings upon our parishioners.



Solovetsky Monastery, Russia (photo taken from [wikipedia](#))

NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES TO BE RE- MEMBERED THIS MONTH

Oct. 10: *Barnabas*

Oct. 17: *Garyfalos*

Oct. 20: *Fr. Stephen Hatherly*

Oct. 23: *Fr. Christopher Neill*

MEMORY ETERNAL!



Solovetsky Monastery, Russia (photo taken from [wikipedia](#))

Please send us the names of your departed loved ones and date of their departure in order for them to be remembered.



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

6th Oct.: Holy Apostle Thomas

7th Oct.: Sts Sergius & Bacchus the Great
Martyrs of Syria

10th Oct.: The 14 Holy Elders of Optina
Monastery in Russia

12th Oct.: St. Wilfrid, Bishop of York
(†709)

18th Oct.: Holy Apostle and Evangelist
Luke

19th Oct.: St. John of Kronstadt

26th Oct.: The Glorious Great Martyr
Demetrius the Myrrh-bearer of
Thessalonica

28th Oct.: The Holy Protection of the
Theotokos

For the lives of Saints please visit the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: www.calendar.goarch.org



Services at St Martin's in October*

Sun. 7 th	09:30	Matins and Holy Liturgy
Sun. 14 th	10:00	Hours, Typica, and Synaxarion
Sun. 21 st	09:30	Matins and Holy Liturgy
Sat. 27 ^h	15:00	Great Vespers
Sun. 28 th	09:30	Hours and Holy Liturgy followed by Parish Lunch

*Help setting up the church is greatly appreciated and starts half an hour before the service.

“God cares for everyone. Despair is in effect a lack of faith”
- St. George Karslides -



For further information please contact:

Father Jonathan Hemmings
67 Sibsey Str., Fairfield, Lancaster, LA1 5DQ
Tel: +44 1524 840759, +44 1524 580600

Email: frjah@yahoo.co.uk

www.orthodox-lancaster.org.uk

www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk

The following blogs of Old Stavronians are available in Romanian, [Constiinta Ortodoxa](#), in English, [Orthodox city hermit](#), and in Greek, [Orthodoxy rainbow](#).



Top and bottom sketches are created at the Holy Monastery of "The Annunciation of the Theotokos" Chios, Greece, courtesy of Fr Theodosios Dendrinos, Ithaca, Greece.
The sketch of Christ by Photis Koutoglou was scanned from the Orthodox calendar of the Apomatioti Diakonia of the Church of Greece.