



## ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray this message finds you all well and healthy.

On July 24th we celebrate the feast day of St. Christina the Great Martyr of Tyre who lived during the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. in the city of Tyre of Syria. She was from a noble family and the young daughter of General Urban. Because of her Christian faith, her father imprisoned her, tortured her, and locked her in a tower that he built himself. When he saw that he could not bend her will, he threw her in the sea, but miraculously St. Christina remained unharmed. When the local authorities found out that she was a Christian, they arrested her, tortured her and imprisoned her, where she remained imprisoned for an extended period of time. While there, she received many faithful and converted many to the Christianity. After St. Christina remained unharmed after throwing her into a furnace, she was executed with a sword. Her holy relics have been and continue to be venerated even until today, centuries later, and still perform miracles for those who seek her intercessory prayers.

On July 26th we celebrate the feast day of St. Paraskevi the Righteous Martyr of Rome. She lived during the reign of Emperor Antoninus during the 2nd century A.D. Throughout her life St. Paraskevi was an example of a good, holy, Christian woman, both in theory and in practice. Her parents nourished her through Christianity and after they reposed in the Lord, St. Paraskevi continued to be a faithful and philanthropic Christian to all who were in need. Her Christian life was witnessed by many in the city of Rome, and, for this reason, she was arrested and tortured. She is known as a healer of eyesight, which we see through the miracle that she performed for Emperor Antoninus. Her life ended after enduring tortures and being beheaded. To this day, we continue to commemorate her as the protector and intercessor of our souls and bodies toward the throne of our Trinitarian God.

On July 27th we celebrate the feast day of St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr and Healer. St. Panteleimon lived in the 3th century A.D. and martyred at the beginning of the 4th century A.D. during the reign of Maximian in the city of Nicomedia in Asia minor. He was a dedicated Christian and physician. He was catechized in the faith by the local priest of the church of Nicomedia and was trained in the medical sciences by a physician named Efrosinos. His love for and faith in Christ perfected his medical skills, and as a Christian physician in the city of Nicomedia he spread joy, peace, and hope by miraculously healing people of all kinds of illnesses and diseases of the body, mind and spirit. In the city of Nicomedia, he became well-known for his unmercenary services, especially for the orphans, children and needy. This led to his arrest, torture and beheading, thus ending his earthly life as he entered into his eternal abode in the Heavenly Kingdom of God.



On July 29th we celebrate the feast day of St. Kallinikos the Martyr of Asia Minor who lived in Cilicia under the rule of Governor Sacerdon of Egypt. When St. Kallinikos went to Egypt his faith in Christ was witnessed by the local idolaters who, with anger and unreasonable hatred, ordered his arrest. He was brought to trial before the Governor who ordered him to offer sacrifice to the idols. Without hesitation, St. Kallinikos declared that as a Christian he did not fear martyrdom. St. Kallinikos suffered tremendous tortures that humiliated his body, but that uplifted his heart, spirit and soul. After enduring different tortures with patience and calmness, he was thrown into a fire where he gave up his soul to our Triune God. To this day, his intercessory prayers provide hope among Orthodox Christians who, with faith, seek his help.

Let us all imitate the example of St. Christina the Great Martyr of Tyre and place first the proper worship of our Triune God above all else in our lives, despite whether or not those around us (including our own family members) are practicing Orthodox Christians. Let us have steadfast faith and ask for the intercessions of St. Paraskevi the Righteous Martyr of Rome that, by God's Grace, we may have the enlightenment and endurance to continue to follow the path towards our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us seek St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr and Healer to be the unmercenary physician of our spirits and bodies and never hesitate to pray to him for his intercessions, be they for us or for whoever else is in need. And let us all pray to God with one voice to give us the strength that He gave St. Kallinikos to stand fearless in our love for Truth (Who is Christ!) despite the evil spirits of this age that seek to crush us on the rocks of atheism and despair, so that, no matter the difficulties we may face, we wholeheartedly seek the love of the Heavenly Bridegroom of our Souls, up until the very last breath of our life.



+Rev. Economos Fr. Georgios Manias

