

they retreated to a hill outside of Ephesus called Celion, and there they hid in a cave. When the emperor learned of this, he commanded that the cave be walled shut. Yet, God—according to His far-reaching providence—caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers Theodore and Rufinus (themselves secret Christians) built a small copper box into the wall. It contained lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men, and which recorded their martyric deaths during the reign of Emperor Decius. More than two hundred years passed. During the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450 A.D.), there was a great dispute about the resurrection of the dead, and there were some that doubted in it. Emperor Theodosius was in great sorrow as a result of this dispute among the faithful, and prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to men. Then some shepherds of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion, were building folds for their sheep, using stones from the cave. They removed stone after stone. Suddenly, the youths awoke from their sleep, as youthful and healthy as on the day they fell asleep. The news of this miracle was spread abroad in every direction, so that Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and conversed with the youths, to his delight. After a week, they again fell into the deep repose from which they had awakened, to await the General Resurrection. Emperor Theodosius wanted to place their bodies in gold caskets; but they appeared to him in a dream, and told him to leave them in the earth as they had been laid there.

## Reflection

*Ask and it shall be given to you, said the Lord (Matthew 7:7). As parents give to their children all that the children ask, and all that is for their benefit, so does God, the Lover of Mankind, give to men all that men ask of God, and what conducive to their salvation. As a monk on Mt. Athos, Cosmas asked two things of God: to preach the Gospel to the people, and to suffer as a martyr for the Faith. For an Athonite monk, who is bound by vows to his monastery, these two desires seem unattainable and unrealistic. But to God, everything is possible. God perfectly fulfilled both desires of Cosmas. The joy of Cosmas was indescribable, when he received the blessing of the patriarch—that he could leave Mt. Athos and go among the people to preach the Gospel [Good News]. Cosmas had a similar moment of joy when the servants of the Turkish Pasha informed him that, by the command of the Pasha, he must die.*

## Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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### August 4, 2024

#### Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

**Apostolic Reading:** Romans 12:6 – 14

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 9:1 – 8

**Services:** *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

**Saints of the Day: 6th Sunday After Pentecost.** The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus; Martyr Eudokia of Persia.

#### Order of Service

##### **Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 5**

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, \* so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. \* Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. \* For our salvation He was pleased \* to be crucified in the flesh, \* and to undergo death, \* and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection.

##### **Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4**

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

##### **Kontakion for the Transfiguration Tone 7**

Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance.

#### Divine Services

**Mon. Aug. 5:** Great Vespers for the Transfiguration 5pm

**Tues. 6:** Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Transfiguration of the Lord (*Blessing of Grapes*) Paraklesis to the Theotokos 5pm

**Wed.-Fri. 7-9:** Paraklesis 5pm

**Sat. Aug 10:** Great Vespers 5pm.

## Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *“With the fear of God, faith and love”* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

## Bookstore and Library

Come downstairs and browse our wonderful selection of new books, Icons, and Orthodox gift items in our well-stocked bookstore. There is something for everyone! *Read often and insatiably the books of the teachers of the Church... ~St. Isaac the Syrian*

## Stewardship 2024

Remember to be current with your stewardship. If you did not receive a 2024 packet, please see Ruxandra Georgescu.

## Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

**August 4:** Johnson Family

**August 11:** Sponsor Needed

**August 18:** Festival

**Aug, 25:** Smoot/Stauffer

## Memorial Services

This morning we remember in our prayers the departed servants of God the +Archpriest Theodore (28 years) and +Matushka Maria (15 years) anniversaries of their repose. They are the parents of Olga Sonnenburg. *Everlasting be their memory!*

## Greek Dance Group

We welcome children and adults to join our parish Greek dance group. Practice will be for a half hour to prepare for our Annual Greek Festival. Any interested children and adults are welcome to join, as well as help teach. Contact Constadina Vasiliades at: 808-373-0312 or [constadina@shaw.ca](mailto:constadina@shaw.ca) if interested or for questions. For the month of **August practices:** Wed. Aug. 7: 7 30pm, Sunday Aug.: 11, Tues. Aug. 13 after church, practices aret at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church.

## Scam Alert and Cyber Security

We received from our Chancellor, Fr. Lou, there are active and aggressive cyber-actors targeting our Metropolis of Denver and Greek Orthodox Churches across the country. The cyber-criminals are impersonating our Metropolitan, Chancellor and even me, your parish priest. The scammer posing as one of the above named, may ask for money or gift cards. A few of

our parishioners over the years have been contacted by a scammer posing as me. **Please know I would not do this or solicit gift cards.** If this happens let me know with a phone call and do not reply to any of these inquiries.

## Capital Campaign

**King Soopers Cards** has a Loyalty Card Program that offers 5% of your purchase sent to a designated charity which Archangel Michael is an eligible recipient. You may sign up online or go to the customer service desk.

## Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet Sunday, August 11, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

## The Dormition Fast

The Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 15. A two-week fast beginning on August 1 precedes this feast. During this period we abstain from meat, dairy products, fish, oil (olive) and wine. On the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) fish, wine and oil are permitted. On Saturdays and Sundays only wine and oil are permitted. The Small Paraklesis will be offered weekdays at 5pm.

## AMGOC 26th Annual Greek Festival

Please remember our 26th Annual Festival will be held on Aug. 16, 17, and 18. Volunteers are needed and signup sheets are in the hall with a QR code. We will set up the canopies on Saturday, **August 10.** See Stephanie Winther for more details. OPA!



**Canopy setup for the festival will be Saturday, August 10.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4AACAE23A4F94-amgoc#/>

## Woman's Fellowship

The women of our parish will gather on Saturday, August 10 at 10am. See Connie Leonard for more information or call 719.660.2190.

## Saints of the Day

**The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus:** *There was a great persecution of Christians during the reign of Decius. The emperor himself went to Ephesus, and there arranged a boisterous and noisy celebration in honor of the lifeless idols—as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices. They earnestly prayed to the one God to save the Christian people. They were the sons of the most influential elders of Ephesus. Their names were Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martin [Martinian], John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus, and Antonin [Antoninus]. When they were accused before the emperor,*