

# Kýrie Eléison

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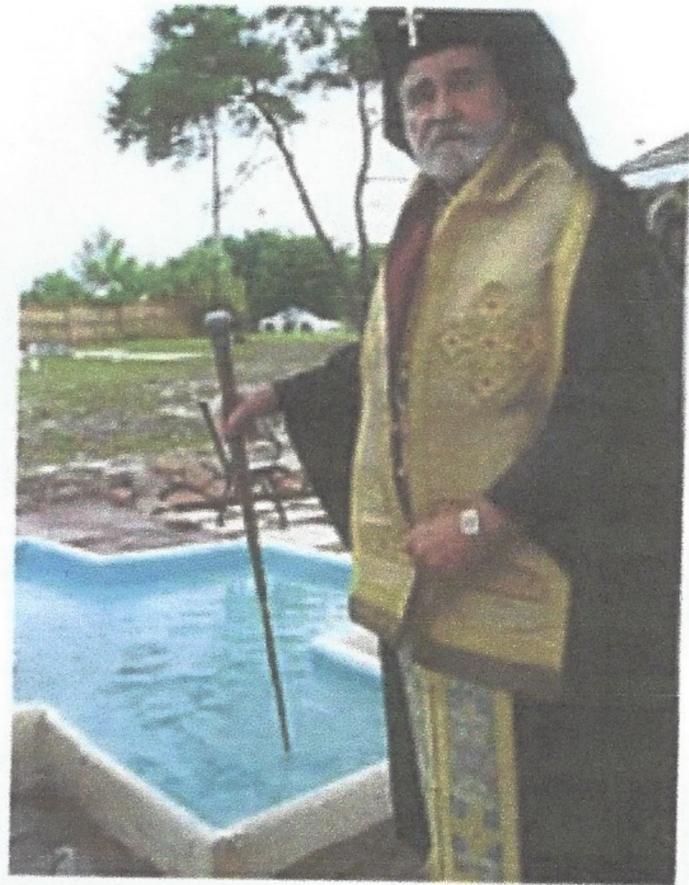
## Archbishop Haralambos Dedicates Holy Theotokos' Shrine and Outdoor Chapel

Archbishop Haralambos of the St. Michael Orthodox Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, dedicated the Shrine of the Holy Theotokos (Mother of God) and Outdoor Chapel on Sunday, August 15, 2004. The Shrine is located on North Savannah Road near Jensen Beach Boulevard in Jensen Beach, Florida. The true essence of this shrine is for Mnimosinon (memorial services). The Shrine is also known as the Washington Memorial Cemetery, an historic site dating back to the Civil War.

Overseeing the dedication was Metropolitan Archbishop Haralambos, Primate of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalus Church in Exile, Grand Prior and Chevalier of the Byzantine Order of Holy Sepulchre (O.B.S.S.) Orthodox Priory in America. Also involved were Bishop Petros of St. Michael Bible College; Bishop Stefan Cosas of Cleveland, Ohio; and Bishop George Sygrimis of Miami.

Those invited to witness the dedication were priests and parishioners from St.

Nicholas Orthodox Church (Fort Pierce), St. Catherine's Orthodox Church (West Palm



*Archbishop Haralambos blesses waters*

Beach), St. Herman's Orthodox Church (West Palm Beach) and St. Mary's Orthodox Church (West Palm Beach).



*'Our Lady of the Life-Giving Spring'*

The Holy Theotokos Shrine and Outdoor Chapel was dedicated on August 15 as part of the celebration of the Blessed Mother's bodily ascension into Heaven.

The Holy Theotokos Shrine features an icon of the Blessed Mother and Christ Child displaying a fountain of flowing water. Also adjoining the Holy Theotokos Shrine is the Outdoor Chapel, a gazebo that serves as St. Michael Orthodox Church's adjunct altar for Divine Liturgies, where future consecrations of Holy Communion will take place.

Following the dedication, people will pilgrimage to the Holy Theotokos Shrine to say prayers and pray for healings.

It is St. Michael Evangelical Orthodox Church's hope that the Holy Theotokos Shrine and Outdoor Chapel will be a spiritual regeneration to those of the Eastern Orthodox faith and a witness to Protestants to the One, Holy, Apostolic, Universal, True Doctrine Orthodox Church, which Christ began.

**The following was Archbishop Haralambos' prayers of dedication of Holy Theotokos Shrine.**

"This is the day that the Blessed Mother was brought to heaven – August 15<sup>th</sup> – an extremely important day in Orthodoxy. We revere the intercessions of the Blessed

Mother, who was so close to the Lord as the Mother of Life when she gave life to her Son through her virgin womb.

"Not only are miracles done forever, your Orthodoxy history tells you that shrines identical to this – the Holy Icon of the Living Water – was destroyed many times. There is only one existing – in the Middle East. It has been destroyed four or five times, then rebuilt, because it brings such miracles by the water. It is more than just the blessing of water, it goes back more than 2,000 years to the work of the Blessed Mother and her helping bring Christ to the fullness of the flesh, as He was God in the Flesh.

"It is also a day of dedication and in memory of my mother, Katina Gonatos, who was married to Soterios Bouchlas. We have a plaque. It's the third one up in the memorial garden, which says simply, In Loving Memory Soterios and Katina Bouchlas. Please say an intercessory prayer if you'd like. As you know, she was a Gonatos, which is a very important name in the history of our family's genealogy. The Gonatos' name goes as far back as Alexander the Great and it is a name to be proud of, for it came from Kalymnos in Greece, where we know that strength of Orthodoxy continues today.

"But we believe this shrine is a place where people can come to pray for God



to do miracles. We can do nothing without the Lord God. So, in the name of the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have asked that our prayers and intercessions be answered. I am here with my new Bishop from Cleveland, Bishop Stefan, who is in our jurisdiction now, along with my Bishop Petros of the St. Michael College. We were expecting Bishop George of Miami, but he was unable to make it because of the bad weather." (This involved rains from Hurricane Charley, which was followed in succession by Hurricanes Francis, Jeanne and Ivan.)

"Bishop Stefan of Cleveland is now heading up our Romanian Diocese with many parishioners in Cleveland, Ohio. It's St. Anthony's Monastery. If you visit there, please visit him. God has blessed me to have him under my omophorion and in our Holy Synod. I also ask for prayers for Bishop Petros who heads up our college and deals with it in my absence. I certainly ask God to bless the rest of our Holy Synod, which stretches to Australia through Archbishop David Francis, Bishop Michael, Bishop George in Miami and myself for our work has just begun. Do not ever be deceived and think that God can't keep men and women alive and well to give glory to Him and to work for His end and not for any other entity.

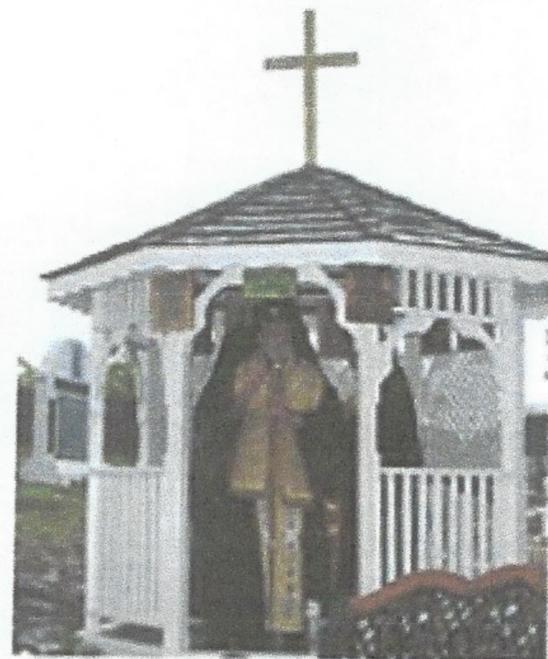
"But together we have a church, and we know that there is no salvation outside of the church – the One, Holy, Apostolic, Universal Church that Christ started in 33 A.D. nearly 2,000 years ago. It's important to understand why we stand in that particular position. We know that the Lord had some very austere words to say to those who used His name even to do miracles and cast out demons. Despite all they did, He said, "Depart, I never knew you."

"We stand on the fact that the Apostolic Church that He began is the one that He knows. We do not believe in Sola Persona

without the Church. The Church and the Shepherds are the Lord's hands that work for His people, dedicated to serve His people.

"With the anointing and the laying on of hands that began with the twelve apostles, we stand on the fact that it is safer ground for us to meet the Lord. We do not convict nor condemn those who believe they are saved, but to us Orthodox, we believe it is safer to believe in the faith that has not changed in 2,000 years, in a faith that does not have 23,000 splinters, each one calling itself Christian, in a faith that has stood for hundreds of years, regardless of the onslaught of the enemy because it is not divided.

"We invite our brother Catholics, who are part of the apostolic succession to come and reunite so there would be no division in the Church. We know that the first division took place nearly 1,000 years ago. So we stand for unity and we ask the Blessed Mother for her intercessions and for the Archangel Michael to mow down all the enemies who want to promote disunity. Unity does not mean an ecumenical embracing of every faith. Orthodoxy is not ecumenical. What we are – the original



*This Chapel serves as St. Michael's adjunct altar for Divine Liturgies.*

stance that God placed upon this earth that has survived for 2,000 years unchanged; blemished at times, yes. But we believe in edification. We believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, can edify.

"So, we ask God at this time to edify those who wish to join the one Apostolic Church, holy unto God, supported by the blood of all the saints. We cannot in any conscience ever denounce the blood of the saints who saved the one true church through many, many battles – through the first seven ecumenical councils, through the first 1,054 years, then onto 1,500 years, as the enemy seemed to gain ground and further divide our faith.

"Jesus Christ said one prayer that is the most outstanding prayer in the entire gospel. He named Himself One with the Father. He proclaimed and asked the throne of God and the power of God that they be one, that He and the Father be One, and the Father in Him and He in the Father. And He prayed for you, so that you would be united with Him. That was His prayer.

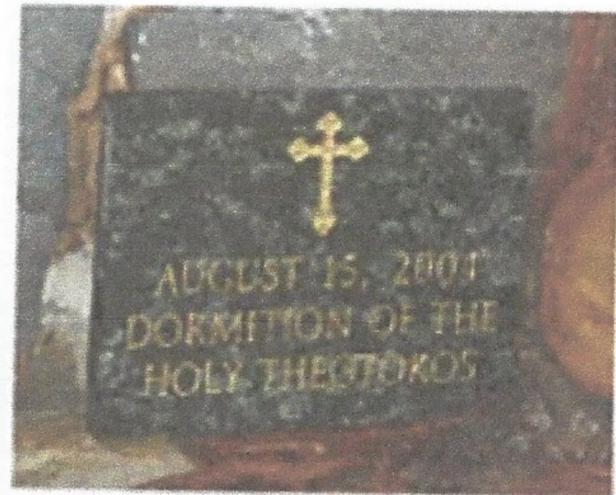
"It's a prayer you can read in the Gospel of John, that He prayed for the unity of not only Him and the Father and the Holy Spirit but that His Church would be united with Him and in Him so they could all be one and therefore there would be no division. So I ask that prayer today as being the first request of my humble bishopric that the Lord has bestowed and anointed upon me.

"I ask that one prayer as I take the bastoni and I touch the waters that the faith will become one once again. Onoma patros, ke lo ke Agio Pnevmatos. Without heresy, without spot or blemish, to be the Bride of Christ, to meet Him in the pureness of what He began; not what it has become. And I ask it in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and the Christ God who was born by the Blessed Mother on this day of her Ascension.

"Whenever it touches your heart in the memory of having been here, I humbly ask you on behalf of my mother to say a prayer for her, ask God to forgive her and to have mercy upon her soul. I also ask that you pray for my father. I have not forgotten him either. And may God bless and forgive him and have mercy upon him.

"Each and every one of you are witnesses here today to what I believe will be a monumental movement of Christ, not only for healing; for love and for unity. So I thank you for being here.

"I put the apostolic blessing upon you that Christ put upon me and I ask that it bring you good health, joy, happiness and peace. Amen."



**Directions to Holy Theotokos Shrine**  
On I-95, go south to Jensen Beach, Fla. Turn east on the Stuart-Indiantown exit. Go past Martin County High School and Monterey Road. Turn north - US 1, then cross the Roosevelt Bridge. Turn east on Jensen Beach Boulevard. Go four miles, then turn left (North) on Savannah Road (CVS Drugstore is on the corner). Go north. On the left is the Holy Theotokos Shrine.

**CONTACT US AT 561-835-3557**