



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ Merciful, Wonder-working, and Myrrh-streaming

Proclamation of the Sanctity of St. John the New Almsgiver, of Amphiale, Piræus

(1899-1966)

April 15, 2018 (Old Style)



The Holy Synod of the Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece, under the presidency of His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos, at its Session on September 5/18, 2017, resolved upon the formal proclamation of the Sanctity of our Father among the Saints John the New Almsgiver, Wonder-worker, and Myrrh-streamer of Amphiale († January 27, 1966 [Old Style]).

Hailing from Smyrna, in Asia Minor, St. John shone forth in Amphiale, Piræus, as a spiritual Father and guide, Confessor, and Wonder-worker, who was exceptionally charitable and beneficent.

The emergence of this brilliant star in the many-lighted heaven of our Church, alongside the other newly-revealed luminaries, monastic Saints, Confessors, and New Martyrs, once again testifies that the Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians is, by the Grace of God, vibrant and abounding in comely spiritual children.

The Proclamation and first service in honor of the new Saint took place on the eve of the Sunday of the Paralytic, April 15, 2018 (Old Style),





at the Holy Convent of St. Demetrios, in Amphiale, Piræus, which was built by the merciful Saint, and which is now under the direction of the Reverend Mother Thekla, a spiritual daughter of St. John.

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The Ruling Hierarchy, His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis, presided at the Festal Vespers, together with Their Eminences, Metropolitans Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, Moses of Toronto, Demetrios of America, and Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, assisted by a large number of Priests and Deacons.

The service to the Saint, composed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, was sung by the choir of the local Metropolis, under the direction of musicologist Mr. Athanasios Ioannides.

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At Orthros and the festal Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos was the principal celebrant.

Taking part were His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, Chief Prelate of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad; Their Eminences, Metropolitans Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis, Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, Gregory of Thessaloniki, Photios of Demetrias, Moses of Toronto, Demetrios of America, Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle; Their Graces, Bishops Sofronie of Suceava, Antonie of Ploiești, Glicherie of Iași, and Evloghie of Sibiu, from our from our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania; Their Graces, Bishops Ambrose of Methone and Klimes of Gardikion; and His Grace, Bishop Roman of Haifa, of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

Many clergy, monks, and nuns were in attendance, as well as a great throng of faithful from Attica and the surrounding area, many of whom communed of the Immaculate Mysteries.

Throughout the services, the faithful had the opportunity to venerate the fragrant Relics of the Saint, and in particular his luminous, amber-hued skull.





During the Communion of the Clergy, His Eminence, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia read a *sermon* on the virtuous life, spiritual gifts, and astonishing miracles of the Saint with special warmth and emotion, since he attended Church at the Convent of St. Demetrios from his youth and his family had St. John of Amphiale as a spiritual Father.

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Before the Dismissal, the Great Doxology was chanted and the Secretary of the Holy Synod, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, read the Synodal Act of Glorification, which was then signed by the Hierarchs over the Bible and before the Grace-filled skull.

As the Apolytikion to the New St. John the Merciful was chanted, Archbishop Kallinikos blessed the worshipers with the holy skull. Kollyva was then blessed for the first time in honor of the Saint.



Thereafter, a procession took place around the Convent with the holy Icon and Relics of St. John, and also with the chains that he secretly wore crosswise on his chest throughout his entire ascetic life, accompanied by the chanting of the choir and the municipal band of the Hellenic Coast Guard.

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Finally, each Hierarch was given a small portion of the fragrant Relics of St. John, along with an official Synodal certificate of authenticity. Copies of the Icon of the Saint and the service in his honor were also distributed.

All those who were vouchsafed to take part in the services and the Concelebration on the occa-





sion of the Proclamation of the Sanctity of St. John avowed that it was a heavenly and blessed experience, replete with Grace.

• **St. John the Merciful and Wonderworker of Amphiale**, intercede for us, your unworthy children, and for the entire world!



Icon painted by the Iconography School of the Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle (February 2018)