



# The Cathedral Connection

May 2015

SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
2815 36<sup>th</sup> Street Northwest · Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 333 - 4730 [www.saintsophiadc.com](http://www.saintsophiadc.com)

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

+ Christ is Risen! + Χριστός Ανέστη! +

Dear Saint Sophia Family,

The Consecration of our beloved Saint Sophia Cathedral is upon us! Let this issue of the **Cathedral Connection** be your guide to some of the aspects of the services that we will be blessed to witness the weekend of May 9-10, 2015. It would take *volumes* – and maybe Divine Revelation! – to fully explore and understand the theological significance of this momentous event in the history of our parish, but that should not dissuade any of us from attending as many of the services as we can.

As we approach this glorious occasion, may we be transformed, sanctified, and inspired by the Holy Spirit among us and may we renew our faith in and commitment to Christ and His One True Church.

With love in the Risen Lord,

Tina Serbanos

Saint Sophia Youth Ministry Outreach Coordinator (SSYMOC)

# Table of Contents

Message from Tina Serbanos.....	Page 1
Table of Contents .....	Page 2
Staff & Volunteer Contact List .....	Page 3
Consecration Schedule of Events.....	Page 4
What is a Consecration? .....	Page 5
Arrival of the Holy Relics & Great Vespers .....	Page 6
Saints Panteleimon, Barbara, & Kyrikos.....	Page 7
The Service of Consecration .....	Page 8
History of the Service of Consecration .....	Page 11
Our New Feast Day .....	Page 12
Our New Dismissal Hymn .....	Page 13
Consecration Links .....	Page 14

# Staff & Volunteer Contact List

<u>MINISTRY GROUP</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
All	Fr. Steve Zorzos	Spiritual Advisor	frsteve@saintsophiadc.com
All	Fr. Dimitri Lee	Spiritual Advisor	frdimitri@saintsophiadc.com
All	Pete Panagiotopoulos	Cathedral Administrator	ptpoulos@saintsophiadc.com office@saintsophiadc.com
All	John Werth	Financial Administrator	johnwerth@saintsophiadc.com
All	Eleni Planzos	Sunday School Youth Director	esplanzos@verizon.net
All	Tina Serbanos	Youth Ministry Outreach Coordinator	ssymoc@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Peter Sbily	Instructor	sbily4@aol.com
Campus Ministry	Ted Koutsoubas	Advisor	tedkout@gmail.com
GOYA	Christina Sardelis	Advisor	c.sardelis@verizon.net
GOYA	Dina Kaldis	Advisor	camari13@aol.com
GOYA Basketball	George Wallace	Coach	governorgw@gmail.com
GOYA Basketball	Michael Polchert	Coach	mpolchert@gmail.com
GOYA Basketball	Evan Ganginis	Coach	eganginis@yahoo.com
GOYA Basketball	Alexander Planzos	Coach	aplanzos@verizon.net
GOYA Basketball	Maria George	Coach	mgeorge430@gmail.com
Greek School	Dr. Andriana Kalapothakos	Coordinator	kaladem@aol.com
JOY	Effie Frankowski	Advisor	effieinmd@yahoo.com
JOY	Despina Manos	Committee Member	despina.manos@eeas.europa.eu
JOY	Tiana Marmaras	Committee Member	tpm2kids@yahoo.com
Little Angels	Dina Margas	Advisor	hermesdgm@aol.com
Little Angels	Maria Spanos	Committee Member	mkspanos@yahoo.com
Little Angels	Mary Karounos	Communication/Sign-Up	littleangels@saintsophiadc.com
Oratorical Club	Amanda Lockhart	Advisor	amanda.k.lockhart@gmail.com
Sunday School	Diane Cerniglia	Academic Dean (Upper School)	dianecer@aol.com
Sunday School	Stracie Maniatis	Academic Dean (Lower School)	straciem@aol.com
Sunday School	Vivian Kambanis	Administrator	agkambanis@msn.com
YAL	Chris Dallas	President	stsophiayal@gmail.com



THE CONSECRATION OF  
SAINT SOPHIA  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
MAY 9-10, 2015

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

---

## SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

Morning Youth Activity

Arrival of the Holy Relics | 3:45 PM

Great Vespers | 4:00 PM

Grand Banquet, Ritz-Carlton Hotel | 6:30 PM

## SUNDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

Orthros | 7:45 AM

Consecration Service | 9:15 AM

Divine Liturgy | 11:00 AM

General Reception | 1:00 PM





THE CONSECRATION OF  
SAINT SOPHIA  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

MAY 9-10, 2015



## What is a Consecration?

Consecration means “the act, process, or ceremony of consecrating.” Consecrate means “to dedicate as sacred.” The Greek word for consecration is “εγκαινία” which comes from “εγκαινιάζω” which means to “make new” or “renew.” For us Orthodox Christians, the consecration is the baptism and chrismation of a church. In fact, there are many similarities between the Service of Consecration and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Chrismation.

A Consecration also offers its witnesses the opportunity to be renewed in their faith and to rededicate their lives to Christ.

# Arrival of the Holy Relics & Great Vespers

On Saturday evening, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will enter into the church carrying the Holy Relics or bones of three martyr Saints: Saint Panteleimon, an adult male saint; Saint Barbara, an adult female saint; and Saint Kyrikos, a male child saint. The Holy Relics will be placed on the paten (*diskarion*), the asterisk (*asterikon*) and sacred covering will be placed over them, and they will remain on the Holy Altar Table until the following day.

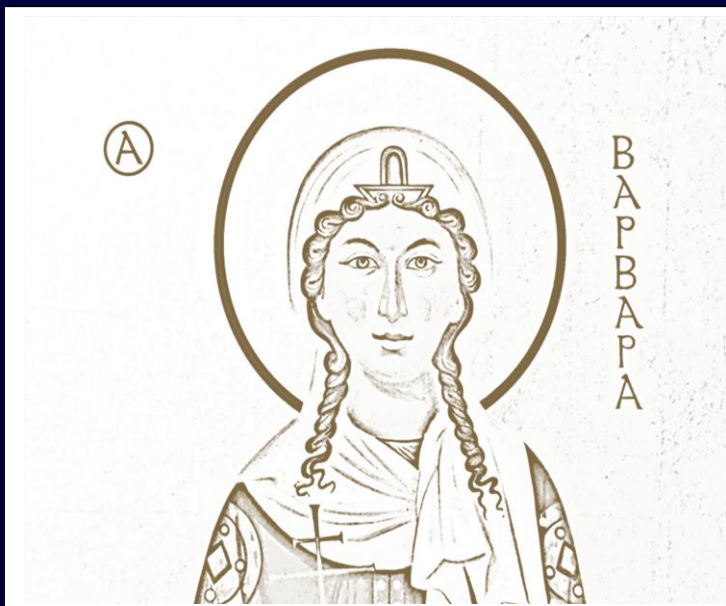
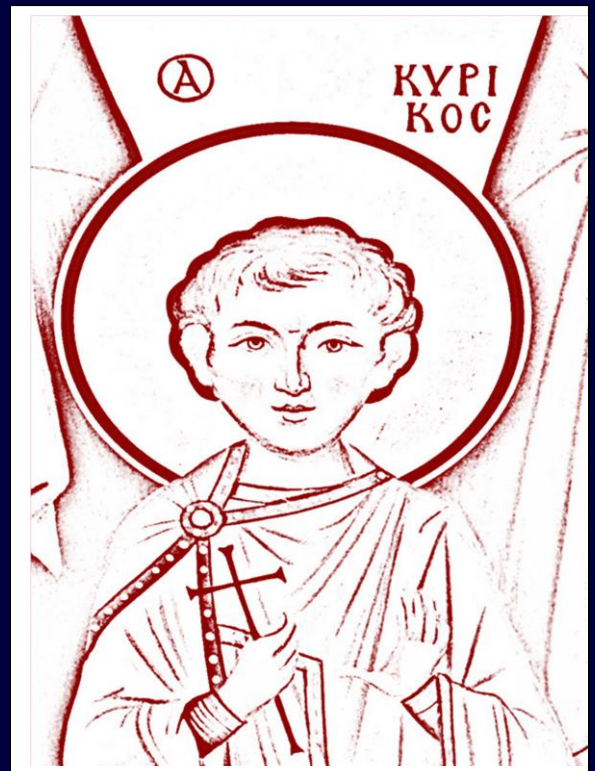
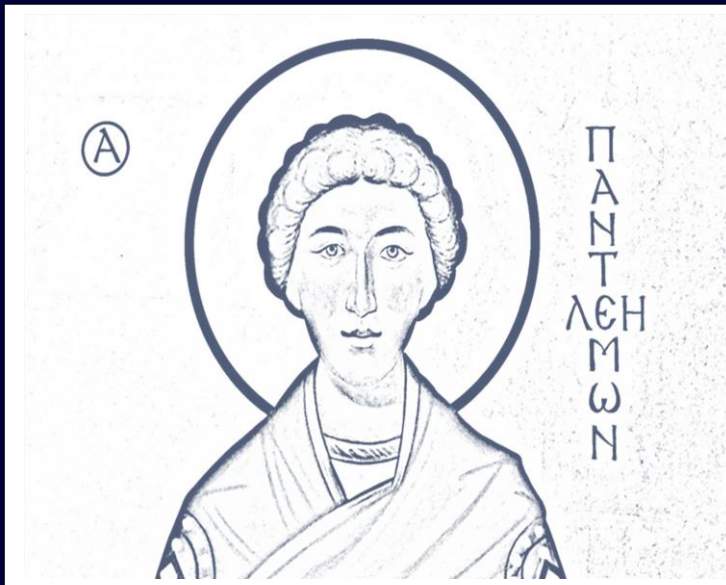


**Paten (*Diskarion*) with Asterisk (*Asterikon*)**

Immediately following the prayer service, a festal Great Vespers service will be celebrated by the hierarchs and clergy. The Great Vespers will include Resurrectional hymns, hymns of Mid-Pentecost, hymns of the Samaritan Woman, hymns of Consecration, and readings from the Old Testament.

# Saints Panteleimon, Barbara, & Kyrikos

During the Service of Consecration, the Holy Relics or bones of Saints Panteleimon, Barbara, and Kyrikos will be placed and sealed inside the Holy Altar Table. What do we know about these Saints? Please click [here](#) to read about their lives.



# The Service of Consecration

On Sunday morning, the Service of Consecration will take place between Orthros (Matins) and the Divine Liturgy. The Service of Consecration begins with the reading of Psalm 142 . After a series of petitions are recited, the Archbishop will carry the paten with the Holy Relics and, together with the clergy and the people, will exit the church and walk around it three times. After the first and second procession around the church, everyone will stop in front of the church, the following hymn will be chanted, and an Epistle and Gospel reading will be read:

Hear us, you martyred Saints, who fought the good fight, gaining crowns: entreat the Lord to shed His tender mercy on our souls.

Ἅγιοι Μάρτυρες, οἱ καλῶς ἀθλήσαντες καὶ στεφανωθέντες, πρεσβεύσατε πρὸς Κύριον, ἐλεηθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

After the third procession around the church, the following hymn will be chanted:

O Christ our God, who built Your Church on the rock of faith, direct our petitions and receive Your people who in faith cry to You:  
Save us, O our God.

Ὁ ἐν τῇ πέτρᾳ τῆς πίστεως οἰκοδομήσας τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν σου, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, ἐν αὐτῇ κατεύθυνον τὰς ἱκεσίας ἡμῶν καὶ πρόσδεξαι λαὸν ἐν πίστει βοῶντα· Σῶσον ἡμᾶς, ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν.

Then, the Archbishop will tap the front doors with his episcopal staff and will say with a loud voice:



# The Service of Consecration

**Lift up the gates, O you rulers, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall enter.**

And the only person remaining inside, representing an angel, will ask:

**Who is this King of glory?**

And the Archbishop will respond:

**The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord powerful in battle.**

This dialogue will be repeated twice more. After the third time, the church doors will be opened, and the Archbishop will enter carrying the Holy Relics, followed by the clergy and the people. The Holy Relics will then be placed into a small box, Holy Chrism (myrrh) will be poured over them, and the box will be placed into an opening in the Holy Altar Table. The names of Orthodox Christians who are living (the Church Militant) and those who have fallen asleep (the Church Triumphant) will also be placed inside and prayed over. The opening will then be sealed with wax/mastic containing sweet smelling spices like those that were used to anoint Christ to prepare Him for burial.

Next, the Archbishop will wash (Baptize) and anoint (Chrismate) the Holy Altar Table while wearing a white linen garment called the *savanon*. First, he will pour water on the Holy Altar Table three times making the sign of a cross and saying:

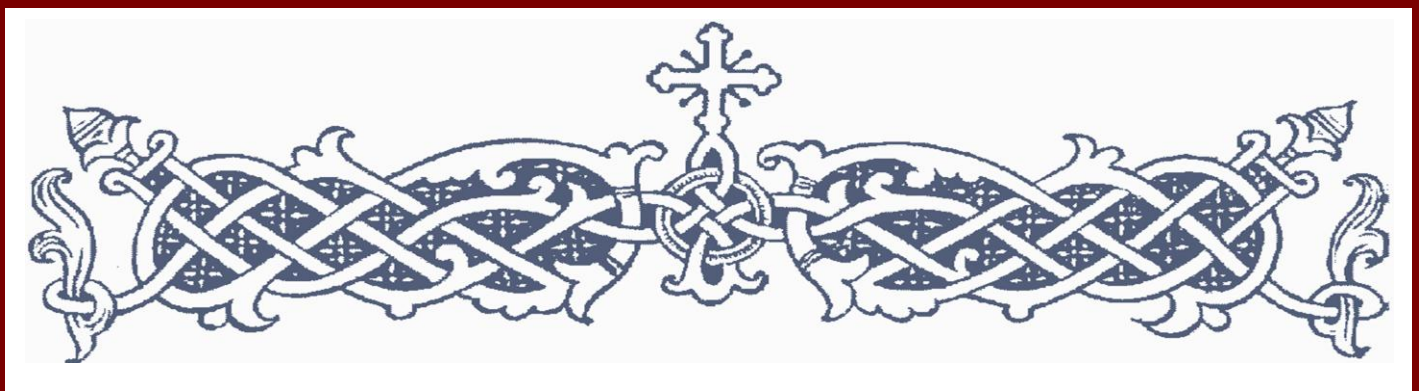
**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

# The Service of Consecration

The Holy Altar Table is then dried, sprinkled with rose water, and anointed with Holy Chrism (myrrh). Excess Chrism will be wiped up with *antiminsia*, rectangular pieces of linen or silk cloth upon which are represented the entombment of Christ, the four Evangelists, and scriptural passages related to the Eucharist. These *antiminsia* will be distributed for use by other churches across the Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate.

After the Holy Altar Table is washed, anointed, and dried, paper icons of the four Evangelists will be fastened to it, one in each corner. Then the Archbishop will proceed to “vest” or put on new coverings on the Holy Altar Table and place Holy Articles, such as the Book of Gospels and the Tabernacle, on top. The Archbishop will then circle the Holy Altar Table while censuring it, and then will cense the entire church. Thereafter, the walls and Holy Icons of the church will be anointed with the Holy Chrism.

Once the Service of Consecration is completed, the Archbishop will remove the *savanon* which will be cut into small pieces by the members of our Ladies Philoptochos Society and distributed to everyone at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



# The History of the Service of Consecration

The Service of Consecration that will be celebrated at our Cathedral on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> has its origins in the service that was celebrated at the Consecration of the Most Sacred Church of the Resurrection of Christ in Jerusalem (also known as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher) on September 13<sup>th</sup> in the year 335 A.D. This service is celebrated at the Consecration of every Orthodox church, and on the annual commemoration of it as is done in Jerusalem.

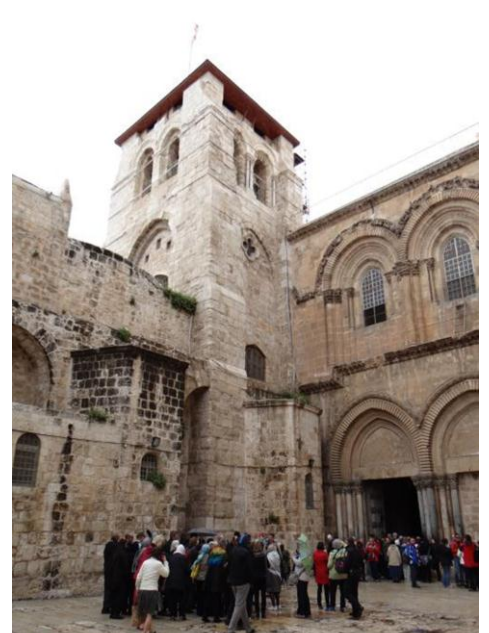
Saint Helen began construction of the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem on the site of her discovery of the Holy Sepulcher (the Tomb), Golgotha (where the Crucifixion occurred), and the Cross of Christ. Unfortunately, Saint Helen died before its completion and Consecration.

The Consecration of the Church of the Resurrection in 335 A.D. coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint Constantine the Great's reign as Emperor. The Consecration of Saint Sophia Cathedral coincides with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence on 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Avenue.



(L): Photo of the *kouvouklion* or aedicule that encloses the Tomb of Christ in the Church of the Resurrection of Christ in Jerusalem.

(R): Photo of the exterior of the Church of the Resurrection of Christ in Jerusalem.



## Our New Feast Day

Saint Sophia Cathedral is dedicated to Christ, the Holy Wisdom of God (*Agia Sophia*). It is not named after a saint bearing the name Sophia. Historically, we have celebrated our feast day on the Monday after Pentecost, a day dedicated to the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, which is commemorated 50 days after Pascha and 10 days after the Ascension, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles as tongues of fire.

As our Cathedral is consecrated, and in the spirit of the regeneration and renewal that comes with this occasion, we will change our Cathedral's feast day from the Monday after Pentecost to that of Mid-Pentecost. Mid-Pentecost is celebrated halfway between Pascha and Pentecost. This year, Mid-Pentecost falls on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Consecration will mark the first celebration of our new feast day as it will occur within the festal period (i.e., before the leave-taking (*apodosis*) of the feast). It is actually quite profound (and not at all coincidental!) that our Consecration – the Baptism and Chrismation of the Cathedral – will take place during this feast, for it bridges Pascha and Pentecost and the Sacraments to which they are related (Baptism is associated with Pascha because it is our participation in the Death and Resurrection of Christ, and Chrismation is associated with Pentecost because it is when we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit).

In changing the Cathedral's feast day, we align ourselves with other Orthodox Cathedrals dedicated to Christ, the Holy Wisdom of God that celebrate their feast day at Mid-Pentecost, the greatest example of which is the Holy Temple of the Wisdom of God (*Agia Sophia*) in Constantinople.

## Our New Dismissal Hymn (*Apolytikion*)

Note that the dismissal hymn (*apolytikion*) of the Cathedral will also change since the feast day of the Cathedral will change. The current dismissal hymn of the Cathedral should sound familiar to you – it is chanted after the Small Entrance during almost every Divine Liturgy that we celebrate. It is the dismissal hymn of Pentecost:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast shown forth the fisherman as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. O Befriender of man, glory be to Thee.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας. Φιλάνθρωπε δόξα σοι.

The new dismissal hymn of the Cathedral will now be that of Mid-Pentecost:

At Mid-Feast give You my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for You, O Savior, did cry out to all: whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-Spring of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Μεσούσης τῆς ἑορτῆς, διψῶσάν μου τὴν ψυχὴν, εὐσεβείας πότισον νάματα ὅτι πᾶσι Σωτὴρ ἐβόησας· ὁ διψῶν, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω· Ἡ πηγὴ τῆς ζωῆς, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς δόξα σοι.

## Consecration Links

+ [Saint Sophia Consecration Page](#)

+ [Saint Sophia Consecration Facebook Page](#)

+ [Consecration Video Trailer](#)

+ [Make a Donation](#)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THE CONSECRATION OF  
SAINT SOPHIA  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

MAY 9-10, 2015

