

ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES AND DISCUSSION
AT ST. PHOTIOS GREEK ORTHODOX NATIONAL SHRINE
FEAST OF ST. MOKIOS

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

9:00 A.M. MATINS AND DIVINE LITURGY WITH FATHER JOSEPH SAMAAN

11:30 A.M. LIGHT MEAL, LECTURE AND DISCUSSION ~ WHAT IS AN UNMERCENARY ~ BY FATHER JOSEPH SAMAAN

WHO WAS MOKIOS THE UNMERCENARY?

ST. MOKIOS THE HIEROMARTYR AND UNMERCENARY OF AMPHIPOLIS – COMMEMORATED ON MAY 11
([HTTP://OCAFS.OCA.ORG/FEASTSAINTSVIEWER.ASP?SID=4&ID=1&FSID=101349](http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsViewer.asp?SID=4&ID=1&FSID=101349))

THE LIFE OF THE SAINT – ONE OF THE TWENTY HOLY UNMERCENARY PHYSICIANS

SAINT MOKIOS WAS A PRIEST IN MACEDONIA IN THE CITY OF AMPHIPOLIS. DURING THE DIOCLETIAN (284–305) PERSECUTIONS, ST MOKIOS EXHORTED THE PAGANS WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR THE PAGAN FESTIVAL OF DIONYSUS (BACCHUS), HE URGED THEM TO REPENT, CONVERT AND BE CLEANSED THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM.

WHEN THREATENED WITH TORTURE AT HIS TRIAL IN LAODICEA. HE REPLIED, "MY DEATH FOR CHRIST IS A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR ME." ST MOKIOS ENDURED UNSPEAKABLE TORTURE, REFUSING TO DENOUNCE HIS FAITH.

HE WAS THEN TAKEN TO THE PAGAN TEMPLE OF DIONYSUS. MOKIOS SHATTERED THE IDOLS WHEN HE CALLED UPON JESUS CHRIST. AFTER THIS HE WAS PUT INTO A RED-HOT OVEN, WHERE HE REMAINED UNHARMED, BUT THE FLAMES COMING OUT OF THE OVEN SCORCHED THE GOVERNOR.

AGAIN THE COMMANDER SUBJECTED ST MOKIOS TO FIERCE TORTURE, WHICH HE ENDURED WITH THE HELP OF GOD. HE WAS GIVEN TO WILD BEASTS TO BE EATEN, BUT THEY DID NOT TOUCH HIM. THE LIONS LAY DOWN AT HIS FEET. THE PEOPLE, SEEING SUCH MIRACLES, URGED THAT THE SAINT BE SET FREE. THE GOVERNOR ORDERED THE SAINT TO BE SENT TO THE CITY OF PERINTH, AND FROM THERE TO BYZANTIUM, WHERE ST MOKIOS WAS EXECUTED. BEFORE HIS DEATH HE GAVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR GIVING HIM THE STRENGTH TO PERSEVERE TO THE VERY END. HIS LAST WORDS WERE, "LORD, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT IN PEACE." THEN HE WAS BEHEADED.

ST MOKIOS DIED ABOUT THE YEAR 295. LATER, THE EMPEROR CONSTANTINE BUILT A CHURCH IN HONOR OF THE HIEROMARTYR MOKIOS AND TRANSFERRED HIS HOLY PASSION-BEARING RELICS INTO IT.

ON THE CHURCH OF ST. MOKIOS IN CONSTANTINOPLE – ORIGINALLY BUILT BY CONSTANTINE THE GREAT (324–37), ON THE SITE OF A TEMPLE OF ZEUS. IT COLLAPSED IN THE REIGN OF CONSTANTIUS (337–61), IN HIS THIRD CONSULSHIP (342). IN THE DAYS OF THEODOSIUS THE GREAT (379–95) THE ARIANS WERE EXPELLED FROM THE HOLY CHURCHES AND COMING TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT MOKIOS THEY DESIRED IT AND ASKED THE EMPEROR FOR PERMISSION TO DWELL THERE, WHICH INDEED CAME TO PASS. SO THE ARIANS IMMEDIATELY REBUILT THIS SAME CHURCH AND THE CHURCH WAS USED BY THEM FOR DIVINE SERVICES FOR SEVEN YEARS. IT COLLAPSED, SO WE ARE TOLD, IN THE SEVENTH YEAR AS THEY WERE CELEBRATING THE LITURGY; AND IN IT MANY ARIANS WERE KILLED.

IN THE DAYS OF THE EMPEROR JUSTINIAN (527–565) THE SAME CHURCH WAS REBUILT AND STANDS IN OUR OWN DAY. ([HTTP://HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/PAULSTEPHENSON/TRANS/PARASTASEIS.HTML](http://homepage.mac.com/paulstephenson/trans/parastaseis.html))

THE CISTERN OF ST. MOKIOS WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN OPEN-AIR CISTERNS OF CONSTANTINOPLE. IT WAS NAMED DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO THE CHURCH OF ST. MOKIOS (WHICH I BELIEVE IS NO LONGER STANDING). THE CISTERN EXISTS TO THIS DAY AS A PARK.

PLEASE CALL GINA BINGMAN AT 904.829.8205 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

