

Dionysios the Righteous Martyr of Vatopaidi  
The Venerable Martyr Dionysios, a monk of Vatopaidi Monastery on Mt. Athos, was sent to Crete in 1822 to escort the Holy Girdle of the Theotokos because of an epidemic that ravaged the island. Since at that time a revolution broke out in Crete, the Turks arrested him as a hostage and pressured him to convert to Islam. Because he refused, the Turks tortured him. Remaining steadfast and unyielding in his faith he was led on Clean Monday to the gallows, after confessing his sins and receiving Holy Communion. On September 21, 2000, together with other martyrs from Vatopaidi, he was inducted by a Synodal Act of the Ecumenical Patriarchate into the list of saints of the Church, to be commemorated on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

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Joseph the Righteous of Arimathea  
Saint Joseph of Arimathea was a prominent Jewish leader during the time of Jesus Christ. He is mentioned in the Gospels as being a rich man from Arimathea who was a secret disciple of Christ due to his status in the Sanhedrin. After the crucifixion and death of our Lord, Joseph approached Pontius Pilate out of piety and asked for the body of Jesus so that he might bury it honorably. He, together with Saint Nicodemus, removed the body of Christ from the cross in the presence of the Theotokos and the Myrrh-Bearing Women, wrapped it in a linen shroud, anointed it with spices, and laid it in a new tomb that he owned. This disciple later traveled the world proclaiming the Gospel until he reposed in peace in England. The Church commemorates him individually on July 31<sup>st</sup> and along with the Myrrh-Bearing Women and Nicodemus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha (the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers).

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Tomorrow begins the 15 day Fast of the  
Dormition of the Holy Theotokos



## St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church

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July 31, 2022

Forefeast of the Precious Cross

Dionysios the Righteous Martyr of Vatopaidi

Joseph the Righteous of Arimathea

St. Evdokimos the Righteous of Cappadocia

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion**

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

### **For St. Evdokimos**

The Master who called you to eternal mansions on high preserves incorrupt your body even after you died, O holy Evdokimos; for you had led a lifestyle of self-restraint and decorum, never staining your flesh; and therefore truly you are blessed. With confidence intercede with Christ to save our souls.

### **Hymn of St. Spyridon**

#### **Kontakion**

O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

### Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 15:1-7

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

### Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



AND  
JESUS WENT ALL ABOUT,  
TEACHING, PREACHING, AND  
HEALING...