



# Future of Orthodoxy

*...For I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham...*

**T**he Holy and Great Martyr Euphemia was born in Chalcedon. Her father was Philophronus and her mother's name was Theodorisia, both devout Christians.

Euphemia was a girl beautiful in both body and soul. When the Proconsul, Priscus, celebrated a festival of sacrifice to Ares in Chalcedon, forty-nine Christians absented themselves from the festivities and hid themselves. However, they were discovered and brought before

Priscus, holy Euphemia being among them. When the furious Priscus asked them why they had not carried out the imperial command to sacrifice to the idol, they replied,

"Both the Emperor's commands and yours must be obeyed if they are not contrary to the God of Heaven. If they are, they must not be obeyed; they must be resisted."



Then Priscus put them to various tortures for nineteen days, from day to day. On the twelfth day, he held Euphemia apart from the others and began to flatter her beauty, hoping to bring her thus to idolatry. When all his flattery proved fruitless, he ordered that she be tortured. First,

she was put on a wheel, but an angel of God appeared and broke it. Then he had her thrown into a fiery furnace, but she was preserved from the flames by God's

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## Seeing Angels

Several years ago, in 2017, St. Iakovos Tsalikis was glorified as a Saint of the Orthodox Church. He is a very recent Saint, and many people who knew him personally are still alive. One deacon who served in church with Saint Iakovos recalled how every Liturgy, Father Iakovos would see Angels. Especially during the Cherubic Hymn, he would see so many angels that they filled the whole church up. When he would come out of the Holy Altar for the Great Entrance, many times this deacon would hear him say very quietly,

“Excuse me, Holy Angels, could you please move to the side so I can pass with the Holy Chalice?” And the



Angels would move. It was not a dream—the Saint would see the Angels in reality, and the whole church

was full of them! This Saint had very much humility and reverence towards God. Angels respect Saints very much, and they would reverently move out of the Saint’s way so he could pass.

*(Author: X., age 15)*

## A Recent Miracle in a Monastery

Sometime in February or March of this year, there was a truck carrying a load of lettuce to Fred Meyer’s. When it got there, it turned out it was a double load, and Fred Meyer didn’t want to take it, since it was just going to spoil in their cellars before they could sell it. Usually in cases like this, the lettuce gets thrown out. However, the truck driver was a man with a conscience, and didn’t want to throw out the lettuce. Instead, he thought of

one of Geronda Ephraim's monasteries that might want it, since they had a lot of people there every day. He drove the truckload of lettuce to the monastery. The nuns were not sure what to do. It would probably not be used up before it was spoiled, but in the end, they took it. They knew the Saint of the Monastery would not let it go to waste. They kept it in a storage room, not a fridge, and it did not have air conditioning. That week, the coronavirus lockdown happened in that state. The nuns couldn't go and buy food anymore. However, they still had the storage room full of lettuce. The nuns had it during every meal. They even gave it to their goats! After several weeks of shutdown, the amount of lettuce went down, and finally, the last crate of it was used up. The same week that the lettuce was finished, the lockdown was lifted, and the sisters could go shopping again. The Saint of the Monastery took care of them to the very last detail. He sent just the right amount of lettuce to them at just the right time. The sisters were very thankful for his

care of the monastery.

*(Author: L., age 16)*

## Help From the Panagia Myrovlytissa

There was a childless couple who very much wanted to have a child. Once, the woman went to the miraculous and myrrh-gushing icon of the Panagia Myrovlytissa and asked for a piece of cotton soaked with the myrrh from the icon for a blessing to take home. Instead of anointing herself with it, she prayed and swallowed the cotton. Within a short time, she conceived, to the great joy of herself and her husband. When the child was born nine months later, the doctor noticed something in the baby's hand. Opening it up, he found the piece of cotton, still soaked with myrrh and fragrant. This miracle was reported in the Athens newspapers and the woman herself testified to it.



*(Source: Saint John's Monastery)*



## How the Archangel Michael Loves Greece

Because Greece is so close to their borders, the Turks often attack it and try to take islands away. It is very sad to say that the Turks have already taken several islands away, including the historically famous island of Rho. They still are thinking of ways to attack Greece. However, the holy Archangel Michael loves Greece very much and there are many stories of his intercession for Greece. Last fall, in 2019, there was a Turkish woman who would come to the icon of St. Michael of Mantamados on Lesbos and cry for a long time in front of it. She came many times and just stood there, crying in front of St. Michael. Finally, the nuns of the monastery where it was kept asked her, “Why do you come here and cry in front of that icon so much?”

The woman told them this:

“My husband serves in the Turkish air force and he often flies over this area in his airplane, even though this is Greek land. He does this illegally, but his commanders tell him to, and he has to. Once, as he was flying over this island, this man (and she pointed to the icon of St. Michael) appeared to him in the air and told him that if

he would not stop flying over this part of Greece, he would kill him. Now I come here to ask the man in this picture to not kill my husband.”



The sisters were surprised and gladdened by the Archangel’s intervention and told her that she should instead tell her husband to stop flying over the area. What happened to the Turkish pilot is unknown, but this story shows how much Saint Michael cares for Greece.

Another miracle of St. Michael happened about two years ago. The Turks decided to get on one of their ships and go attack one of the Greek islands they wanted to steal from Greece. They simply got on a ship, crossed the border, and started coming closer and closer to the island. The Greeks on the island were first confused and then became alarmed at seeing this Turkish army ship approaching the island without showing why. Several people on the island

were taking a video of what was happening. Suddenly, they saw the ship start turning around quickly and speeding away as fast as it could. The Greek people on the island were first puzzled, but later they found out that the Turks had turned around because a huge Archangel Michael appeared. He was so tall that his head reached the clouds. He threatened the Turks with his sword. Of course, they were very scared and left immediately. On the video that the people were taking, the Archangel appeared as an angel-shaped cloud. The people of the island were very thankful for his love and intercession against the enemy's attack.

*(Author: M., age 12)*

## **Let Us Die like Christians!**

Somewhere in Russia just before the Revolution, there was a monastery that was said to be inhabited by idle drunkards. During the Revolution, when the Bolsheviks arrived at the town closest to the monastery, they gathered the people in the town square, and then they dragged the monks out of their monastery to

where the people were gathered.

The commissar shouted, "Citizens! Townsfolk! You know these drunkards better than I do! Now their power has come to an end! But so that you will fully know how these vagabonds have fooled the workers and peasants for centuries, we will throw their cross and their scriptures in the dust before them. Now before your very eyes you will see as each one of them stamps on these tools of deceit and enslavement of the people! And then we will let them go. And let the four winds scatter them!"

The crowd roared. Before the people could finish applauding, the abbot stepped forward with his nose all red from drinking and exclaimed, "Well, my brothers, we have lived like pigs, but let us at least die like Christians!" So saying, he knelt down in front of that big crowd and kissed the cross and the Scriptures. His monks, one after the other, followed his example. And since not a single one of those monks would step on the cross or the Holy Scriptures, they were all shot by the Bolsheviks, receiving crowns of martyrdom at their hands.

*(Author: P., age 16)*

## **“I Got His Fish”**

A very wonderful archimandrite once told the following stories:

“One pious man was wealthy, and when the poor people would come up to him, he would say, ‘Get away from here!’ and he would put a gold coin into their hand. They would come, and he would say, ‘Get away! and he would put gold into their hand, and so everybody else in the village thought he was terrible. Then when he died, all the poor people were at his funeral.”

“This happened about thirty years ago in Greece. A very pious man had a niece. She was in her twenties, also very pious, lived a good life, was engaged to a very good young man. She was crossing the street, and she was hit by a car and killed instantly. That upset the uncle. He never said anything out loud, but he in his head he was thinking, ‘God, how could you do this? How could you allow this to happen?’ and so he kept those thoughts. Then he went out into the street, and some man came up to him whom he had never seen before and he said, ‘I have some very good fish. I want you to buy one of my fish.’ and the uncle of the girl thought to himself, ‘Why can’t this man leave me

alone? I’m very angry and upset right now with God, and he wants me to buy fish!’ So, finally, to get him off his back, he agreed, but all the while he was thinking, ‘I’ll buy the fish, and I’ll give it to some poor person and leave it at that.’ Well, the next day his best friend contacted him, and he said, ‘I had a very strange dream last night; your niece came to me, and she looked radiant, and she said, “Tell my uncle that I got his fish.” ’ ”

*(Author: I., age 14)*

## **PLATO**

A certain Christian would constantly criticize and condemn the wise Plato as being an evil man and an atheist. One night, Plato himself appeared to this Christian in a dream and said, “Do not criticize me pointlessly, my dear man. I do not deny that I am a sinner; however, when Christ came to Hades, I was the first to believe in Him.”

*(Author: P., age 16)*

## **“In My Son’s House We Do Not Play!”**

There was once a doctor who, when he was a child, a liturgy had finished, and he and his cousin start-



ed being naughty inside the church.

Then an austere but sweet women’s voice told them, “In

my Son’s house we do not play! We do not run around. We pray, we receive Holy Communion and partake of His Body and Blood. The Blood of my Son!” Then she grabbed them by the neck, and in a split second, both children were outside in the Churchyard. The doctor once said, “Just let them come to me and tell me that there is no God. God spoke to me through His All-Holy Mother.”

Once a little boy was serving as an acolyte, but he was always restless and would not sit still. The priest got tired of him continually moving during services, so he told the little boy, “If you don’t stay perfectly still

during church you won’t be able to see the Holy Spirit.” He said that just to keep the little boy still and quiet during church. The next Liturgy, the little boy stood perfectly still. After it was over, he said to the priest, “Father! You didn’t tell me how beautiful It would be!”

*(Author: P., age 16)*

## **True Love**

Once, my dad let my parakeets out of their cage so that they could walk around a bit. I was doing school in another room. All of a sudden, my little sister ran in and shouted, “look, your parakeets are coming!”. And I saw one of them running to me and flying up on my shoulder. She started chirping and wouldn’t leave! This shows me what great love animals have for their owners.

*(Author: D., age 8)*



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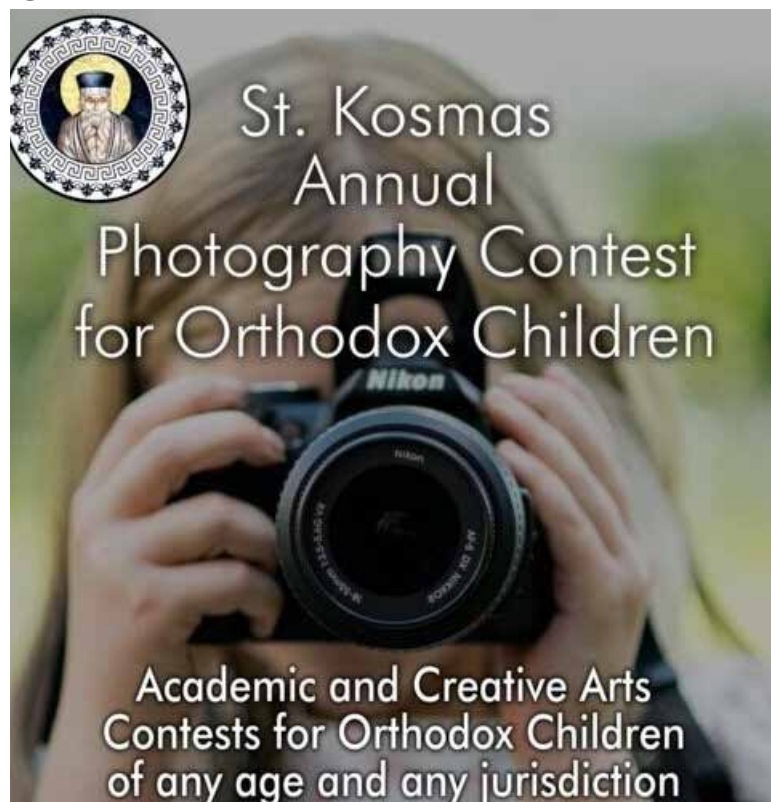
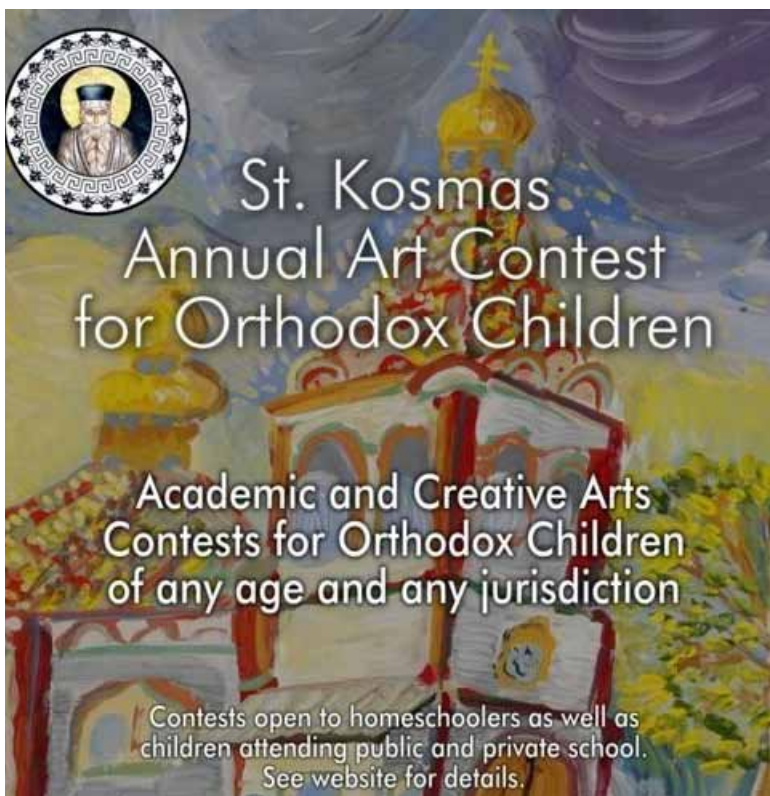
# 2020 SAINT KOSMAS ART & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

2020 CONTEST THEME:

## TIMELESS ORTHODOXY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

FOR CONTEST DETAILS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[saintkosmas.org/contests](http://saintkosmas.org/contests)





## Saint Euphemia the Great ...

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power. Seeing this, two soldiers, Victor and Sosthenes, came to faith in Christ, for which they were thrown to the wild beasts and thus finished their earthly course with glory. After that, Euphemia was thrown into a pit filled with water and all kinds of poisonous reptiles, but she made the

sign of the Cross over the water as she went into the pit and remained unharmed. She was finally thrown to the wild beasts, and with a prayer of thanksgiving, gave her soul into God's hands. Her parents buried her body. She suffered in the year 303 and entered into eternal joy.

### **A Miracle About Saint Euphemia the Great**

*Saint Euphemia is well known for the miracle wrought by her precious holy relics, revealed at the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon. This Council was called together in the reign of the Emperor Marcian and the Empress Pulcheria, in 451 A.D., after the death of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger, and was summoned because of the heresy of Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, the Eutyches, and archimandrite in Constantinople, who had disseminated the false teaching that there were in Christ not two natures, Divine and human, but only one, a divine nature. At this Council, the chief role was played by Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople and Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Because, through the quarrels and evidence on both sides, no decision could be reached. Patriarch Anatolius suggested that the Orthodox and the heretics each write down their confession of faith, and that they be put into the coffin that contained the holy relics of Saint Euphemia. All agreed to this. Two confessions of faith, then, were written and placed*

*in the hands of the great martyr. This coffin was closed and sealed with the imperial seal, a watch then being set over it. They then all spent three days in fasting and prayer. On the fourth day, when the tomb was opened, they saw the Orthodox confession of faith in the Saint's right hand and the heretical one beneath her feet. Thus was the conflict resolved by God's power, on the side of Orthodoxy. In the time of the Emperor Heraclius, the holy relics of Saint Euphemia were translated from Chalcedon to Constantinople, to the church dedicated to her near the Hippodrome. The iconoclast Emperor Leo the Isaurian ordered that her holy relics be thrown into the sea; but, by a miraculous act, the coffin was brought to the island of Lemnos and placed in the church of the holy martyr Glykeria. Then, in the time of Empress Irene, the coffin with its holy relics was again taken to Constantinople, to its former place. Blood has flowed from these holy relics from time to time, to the succor of the sick and the feeble.*

# *Thank you very much for reading this newsletter!*

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## **Submissions**

*We appreciate and accept all articles with a theme that supports the Orthodox Faith from youth of all ages. The word limit for all articles is 450 words (with exceptions). The deadline for all articles is the last Sunday of each month. All youth of the age of twelve or above, is asked to send articles digitally to the following email:*

*[futureoforthodoxy@gmail.com](mailto:futureoforthodoxy@gmail.com)*

*All children under the age of 12, please give your articles to Michael Larsen, or you may also send your articles by email, or send them to the following address:*

*Michael Larsen, Chief Editor  
23411 E. Orville St.  
Florence AZ 85132*



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