

ORTHODOX NEWS



October - December 2012

*Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa
Holy Metropolis of Good Hope (Cape Town)*

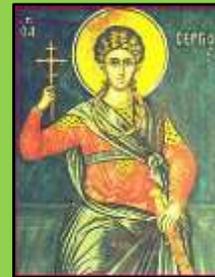


Vespers Service for the name day of our Archbishop Sergios

On Saturday 6 October, a Vespers service was held at The Metropolitan Church of Saints Raphael, Nikolaos and Irene.

Seen here with His Eminence is Father Evlogios, from the Church of the Holy Archangels in George, Father Nikolaos and Deacon Michael from the Holy Cathedral of Saint George in Woodstock, Cape Town.

After the service a cocktail was held in celebration for the occasion of the Saint's Day. The Liturgy the following day was served at the Cathedral of Saint George.



The holy Martyrs Saint Sergios and Saint Bacchus were Romans of high rank in the service of the Emperor Maximian, to whom it was reported that they did not take part in the festivals if idols. When he asked them into his presence, they confessed their Faith in the one God. He had them arrayed in women's clothes and paraded through the streets in mockery. They were afterwards scourged from which Saint Bacchus died. This was about the year 296. Saint Sergios was then taken to Resapha in Syria, where he was tortured and beheaded. His tomb in Resapha became very famous shrine, to which pilgrims came from as far away as Western Europe. Resapha was later renamed Sergiopolis



Father Nikolaos serves a Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of Saint Luke in Onrus

Every year Father Nikolaos and parishioners from in and around Cape Town, travel to Onrus for the Saint's day. This year Father Nikolaos was accompanied by the newly ordained deacon Michael Simos. The psalters seen here are Panayioti Psomas and Stavros Simos, (Michael's father).



Saint Luke was of Greek origin born in the Hellenistic city of Antioch, ^[1] and was externally educated. His studies included Greek philosophy, medicine, and art in his youth. He was also a professional physician. St. Luke came to Jerusalem where he came to believe in the Lord. He and Cleopas met the resurrected Lord on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24).

After Pentecost, Luke returned to Antioch and worked with the Apostle Paul, traveling with him to Rome, and converting Jews and pagans to the Christian Faith. "Luke, the beloved physician, ... greets you," writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians (Colossians 4:14). At the request of Christians, St. Luke wrote his Gospel in the first century. According to some accounts this took place around 60 A.D., and according to others around 80 A.D. After St. Paul's martyrdom, St. Luke preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia, and other regions. He painted icons of the Most-holy Theotokos—not just one, but three—as well as icons of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. For this reason, St. Luke is considered the founder of Christian iconography. In his old age, he visited Libya and Upper Egypt; from Egypt he returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and convert many with great zeal despite his age.

In addition to his Gospel, St. Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles and dedicated each of these works to Theophilus, the governor of Achaia. Luke was 84 years old when the wicked idolaters tortured him for the sake of Christ and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Beothia of Greece

The holy, glorious and all-laudable **Apostle and Evangelist Luke** is the author of the Gospel of Luke, the companion of the Apostle Paul (Phil 1:24, 2 Tim 4:10-11), and is numbered among the Seventy Apostles.

He was a native of Syrian Antioch and a physician, and is the founder of iconography



Church of the Holy Archangels - George Father Evlogios at the Vespers service for the celebration of the Holy Archangels



Celebration of the 100 years of the liberation of Lesvos - 11 Nov.

Christmas celebrations 2012

Karavaki 7 December 2012

Archbishopric of Good Hope Cape



forget yourself and fall asleep, it will still take you to the other side." Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain



Karavaki Lights are switched on after the Nativity play performed by the Children of the Saint George's Sunday School

Along with many Western traditions, like the celebration of birthdays, Greek families also decorate a Christmas Tree as part of the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. But did you know that in the true Greek Orthodox tradition, a boat is decorated instead of a tree?

As a sea-faring nation, the Greeks created a unique and unusual custom of decorating a small boat or "Karavaki" during the Christmas celebrations

The Nativity Boat, as it came to be known, symbolises Orthodox Christians on board the ship of life with our Lord Jesus at the helm, heading for Heaven, our ultimate port of salvation, across a sea of temptation, turmoil and trials. In fact, the main part of a church building where the faithful stand, is called the nave which is derived from the Greek word "naus" meaning ship.

It was also, however, a type of honour and an appropriate welcome for the many sailors who returned from their journeys across the world to be with their families at Christmastime.

The Nativity Boat's link to Christmas is even more obvious in that Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, whose Name Day we celebrate on 6 December, is the patron saint of sailors.

He was also known for his warm and generous heart, his love for children and his care for the sick and poor and selfless gift-giving. Over the centuries, he was transformed into the 'commercial' Santa Claus that we all know.

Saint Nikolaos is a shining example of Christ's love and compassion which are the greatest gifts we can receive and give, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Church of the Holy Archangels - George



Archimandrite Father Evlogios reads our Patriarch's Christmas message

Outreach Christmas Function

Archbishopric of Good Hope, Cape Town

27 December 2012

