



Hero Worship

A study of some of the Church’s teachings about Saints—Saints as examples of imperfect humans trying to live the life of Christ as best they can and as illustrations of the concept of theosis.

Who is my hero and why? What is the difference between idolatry and veneration.

PRAYERS

OPENING PRAYERS—AKATHIST HYMN AND SMALL COMPLINE:

“Most glorious ever-virgin and blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to your Son, and our God, and through your intercession entreat Him to save our souls.”

CLOSING PRAYERS—RESPONSES TO FIRST ANTI-PHON:

“By the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. (3)”

PASSAGES

SAINTS CONSTANTLY STRIVE TO BE HOLY BY IMITATING THE LORD

Leviticus 11:44-45: I am the Lord your God, and you must keep yourselves holy, because I am holy. I am the Lord who brought you out of Egypt so that I could be your God. You must be holy, because I am holy.

1 Corinthians 1:2:
To the church of God which is in Corinth, to all who are called to be God’s holy people, who belong to him in union with Christ Jesus, together with all people everywhere who worship our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.



*Who is my hero and why?
What is the difference between idolatry and veneration.*

SAINTS INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND ARE REWARDED BY GOD

Daniel 7:18: And the people of the Supreme God will receive royal power and keep it forever and ever.

PATRISTICS

St. Basil the Great: “He who touches the bones of a martyr becomes a partaker of the grace which flows forth from it.” Because of such teachings of the Fathers we do not only venerate the relics of Saints, but also things that were intimately connected with them.

PRAXIS

The Patristic position of the intercession of the Saints officially became a teaching of our Church at the Seventh Ecumenical Council. The Fathers present at the Council declared anathema those who do not profess that the Saints are righteous before the Lord, and do not call upon the intercession of the Saints, who were justly given the “right” to intercede on behalf of the whole world.

Also, it is very important that we do not forget to celebrate the feast day of the Saint whose name we have. For we Orthodox Christians, our nameday is even more important than our birthday. Through our name we have a special bond with that specific Saint: he or she is our personal hero and role model. This Saint is the one who protects us and prays

to God unceasingly so we may also become Saints like they are. These prayers of the Saints are the greatest gift we will

receive in this world. Therefore, we should never forget to honor and thank these true heroes. Our baptismal name is the name that will be used in eternity.

PARTICIPATION

Learn about the Saint after whom you were named or another Saint.

Think critically about the difference between veneration and worship, and what it means to be an intercessor.

Study in greater detail the process by which Saints are canonized, what our hymns say about Saints and how Saints are depicted in icons.

Visit the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese web site for daily scripture readings, lives of the saints, and live broadcasts of liturgical services: <http://www.onlinechapel.goarch.org>.

Visit the web site of The Prologue of Orchid by St. Nikolai Velimirovic. [Orthodox Saints Lives Index]: <http://www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/prolog.htm>.

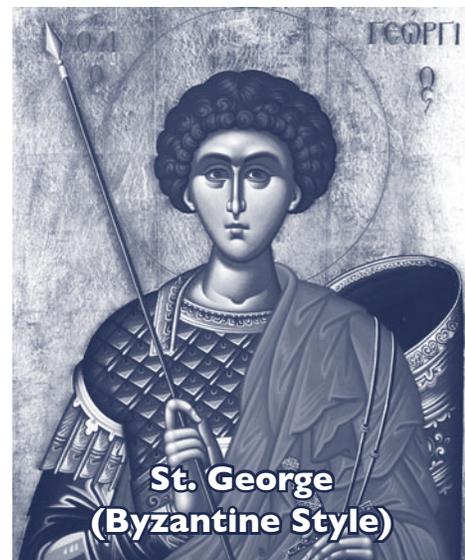
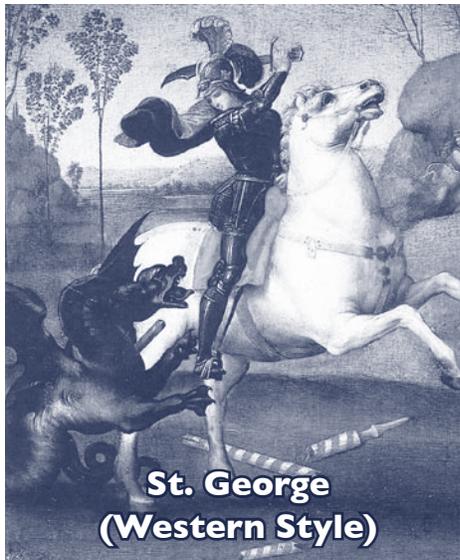
View video presentations on the lives of the saints.

Read pertinent selections from the Bible.

Read *The Saints of the Orthodox Church*, George Bebis, from *A Companion to the Greek Orthodox Church*, Fotios K. Litsas, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.

Read “What We Believe About Saints,” from *Introducing the Orthodox Church*, Anthony M. Coniaris, Light & Life Publishing Company.

Read *Orthodox Saints: Spiritual Profiles for Modern Man*, George Poulos, Holy Cross Orthodox Press.



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