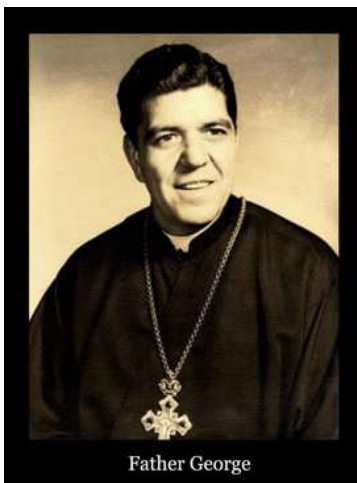


A Note from the Translator



Until I compiled the first ever complete Greek-English Holy Week-Easter Book almost four decades ago, it was almost impossible for the average parishioner to follow the profound and moving services of Holy Week and Easter. There was no book, either in Greek or English, spelling out the services. All the service books were full of cross references, so that by the time one referred to a given page, it was impossible to find one's place again, as the priest or chanter had continued to read while the search was on. Even in the Orthodox country of Greece, there was no comparable book.

As pastor of one of the largest parishes in America, St. Paul Church in Hempstead, New York, I saw this as a basic need for my parishioners. Painstakingly, I compiled the services completely, so that everyone could easily follow. The book was very well received internationally. Since then, another generation has come to be, and conditions have changed. There has been a growing outcry from various sources for modernizing the English. Having conducted a survey among our clergy, the overwhelming response was that the English should indeed be modern, despite the fact that so many preferred the original.

This new translation will, we hope, please the present and future generations by presenting to them a more understandable text.

In consideration for the owners of the original editions, I have meticulously strived to keep the same format, page for page, so that they may continue to use their books, despite the hymns being worded differently in many instances.

Yes, to remain contemporary there is always a price! It is my sincere hope that this book will serve you as well as the original version enlightened your parents and grandparents.

Fr. George L. Papadeas, 1996

BIOGRAPHY OF FATHER GEORGE

Fr. George L. Papadeas (1918-2011) was a highly respected presbyter of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Born in Pennsylvania to Greek immigrants, he was a scholar and master of both the Greek and English languages. He was a charter class member of the first Greek Orthodox theological seminary in Pomfret Center, Connecticut, and graduated as valedictorian in 1942. He was the first American-born clergyman to be ordained in the Greek Orthodox Church. He served the Church for over 69 years at parishes in Hempstead, Long Island, New York, in Greece, and in Daytona Beach, Florida. He had also served as Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York City.

He received countless recognitions including the Order of Phoenix medal from the king of Greece and the title of Head Protopresbyter given by the Archbishop of America, a lifetime honor given to only one priest. He was President of the National Clergy Benevolent Association, the forerunner of the present Archdiocesan Pension Fund. He authored many translations of Greek Orthodox services, including the first translation of Holy Week and Easter services, which remains to this day a standard used around the world.

A full biography of Fr. George is available at www.fathergeorgelpapadeas.com. May his memory be eternal.



PatmosPress.com



NEW BYZANTIUM
PUBLICATIONS
newbyz.weebly.org