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Archbishop Elpidophoros Leads Thyranixia of St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Salt Lake City, Utah



On Saturday, July 13, 2024, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America led the Thyranixia (consecration) of St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. The community warmly welcomed His Eminence to joyfully celebrate the opening of the doors of the church.

Earlier in the day, His Eminence spent time with the youth and young adults engaging in a Question and Answer discussion. The youth of St. Anna had the opportunity to ask Archbishop Elpidophoros questions regarding their faith.

Archbishop Elpidophoros, His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Denver, His Grace Bishop Spyridon of Amastris, Protopresbyter Fr. Anthony Savas, local clergy, and the St. Anna community came together for this special occasion. Great Vespers followed the Thyranixia.

“We are assembled as One Body in Christ, here before the doors of your Temple, which is dedicated to the Mother of the Theotokos and the Grandmother of our Lord, so that we may pray to be worthy to open these doors which lead heavenward,” His Eminence remarked, “Let us open the doors of our spiritual eyes, so that we behold in one another the image and likeness of God, and recognize the

innate goodness that God has gifted to us in our humanity. Let us open the doors of our minds to see in each other brothers and sisters in Christ, who are in need of our attentive love and compassion. And let us open the doors of our souls, that are so often fastened shut by bitterness and disappointment, resentment and loneliness – so that we may feel the rush of the Spirit, and welcome the presence of the Living God in our lives."

An Agape feast followed the consecration where hierarchs, clergy, and parishioners gathered in fellowship. In his remarks at this feast, Archbishop Elpidophoros again emphasized the importance of loving all who enter this Holy Church and through love keeping this sanctuary a real spiritual home, quoting John 13:35: "This is how all people will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

On Sunday, July 14, 2024, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church.

Photos: Mark Vrontikis

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