07/10/2024

Archbishop Elpidophoros Celebrates Divine Liturgy of Consecration at Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Oakmont, PA



October 5, 2024, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presided over the Divine Liturgy of Consecration for Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, celebrating alongside His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, His Grace Bishop Joachim of Amissos, Protopresbyter Fr. George Callos (Chancellor), Presbyter Fr. Constantine Kokanos (PGH Clergy Syndesmos President), Presbyter Fr. Michael Gavrilos (Proistamenos), and Presbyter Fr. Demetri Constantine.

Today's services included both Orthros and Consecration followed by the Divine Liturgy. During the Consecration service, the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful processed around the church three times, setting the church aside as a separate, sacred area for the purpose of worship. The Holy Relics of New Martyrs of Samothraki Saints Michael, George, Emmanuel, Theodoros, and George were also placed in the altar, and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros read the prayer of Consecration, referencing the power of God to renew both nature and humanity.

In his homily, His Eminence described the Consecration service as the "creative

and dynamic” “In-Spiriting” of a church, “the animating of the Temple through these ritual acts of sanctification by which this church is consecrated to Almighty God.”

His Eminence likewise compared the service to the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation: “Just as we baptize in water those who come to the Illumination that the Church offers, we wash the Holy Altar. And just as we chrismate the newly-baptized to receive the in-breathing of the Holy Spirit, we chrismate the walls, the icons, the sacred liturgical objects of the Temple with the same Chrism we have received from the Mother Church of Constantinople.”

After the completion of Dormition’s consecration services, the community celebrated with a banquet, where Mayor of Oakmont Sophia Facaros, Parish Council President Chris Ioannou, parish priest Fr. Michael Gavrilos, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America addressed the parish’s faithful.

Read His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America’s remarks and homilies from the visit below:

Homily at the Great Vespers of Consecration, October 4, 2024

Homily at the Divine Liturgy of Consecration, October 5, 2024

Remarks and Toast at the Consecration Banquet (with Benediction), October 5, 2024

Photos: GOARCH/Dimitrios Panagos.

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