

San Francisco parishes remember 1974 invasion of Cyprus

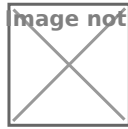


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July 20, 2025, parishes across the United States offer memorial services in commemoration of the 51st anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Earlier this week, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco issued a statement to his faithful, sharing that “On July 20, 1974, the island of Cyprus was invaded by Turkish forces bringing about destruction, persecution, loss of homes and livelihood, loss of lives and driving many into lives in exile. Fifty-one years later, Cyprus still remains a divided country and aggressive actions by Turkey persist.”

Continuing, he asked that today, July 20, 2025, each parish in the Metropolis might “offer a Memorial Service for all those who lost their lives in the Turkish invasion of Cyprus as well as those who have died in the ensuing years, yearning for their homeland.”

The Metropolitan concluded by also asking that his faithful “be mindful of those who are still suffering” in occupied northern Cyprus, and that they “pray to the Lord to grant them peace, justice and mercy along with our unceasing commitment for a just and viable resolution to this injustice.”

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America remembers with solemnity that dark day fifty-one years ago, when our beloved island of Cyprus was invaded by the Turkish army, and that almost half of it is still under occupation. Memories remain alive today of those who were killed, as well as those uprooted from ancestral homes. In the words of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, “we pray for the souls of our lost brothers and sisters who perished in the invasion of Cyprus...We will never forget them, and we will never allow the world to forget. Our prayers for their souls are also cries unto heaven for justice.”

Photo by Orthodox Observer/Brittainy Newman

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