

Saturdays of the Souls:

March 6, 13, 19



During memorial services, we commemorate the souls of all Orthodox Christians who have gone before us into eternal rest. In praying for those who have “fallen asleep in the Lord,” we continue to ask that God may have mercy on them in His divine judgment so they may gain the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The names offered during the “**Saturdays of the Souls**” (March 6, March 13 and March 19) at the beginning of the Lenten season will be commemorated.

Also remember your loved ones by not only submitting their names, but by attending the holy services to offer your own prayers for their eternal rest.

Anyone wishing to do so may also bring or order a dish of memorial wheat (“kollyva”) for use during the service.

Please, bring your list of names to the service, or if not able to attend, call the Church Office 973-584-0388 ahead of time or send it by email to info@standrewgonj.org

Orthros starts at 8.00 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy around 9.00 am

May their memory be eternal!

As a grain of wheat...

Memorial Prayers in the Greek Orthodox Church

For Christians, the act of gathering to pray for those who have died goes back to the earliest days of the Church. In particular, martyrs were honored (for example, placing the Altar Table of a church upon the site where the relics of a martyr were buried); however, gathering at the burial place of a friend or family member was also a common practice among Christians. When we gather today in the Church for a memorial, we are continuing a centuries-old practice.

So, why do we use ‘kollyva’? In John 12:24, Jesus says: “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” The boiled wheat is used in the Orthodox Church as a symbol of our hope in the Resurrection. From the grain that died comes the fruit of eternal life. Why, then, do we call the wheat ‘kollyva’? This name comes from a term commonly used during the fourth century, particularly where the following miracle occurred. The Emperor Julian the Apostate tried to have the fruits and vegetables, for use by Christians who were fasting during Great Lent, contaminated! In a dream, Saint Theodore the Tyron appeared to Patriarch Evdioxios and told him to instruct the faithful to consume only boiled wheat (‘kollyva’). The faithful responded accordingly and were able to continue the fast! This miracle is commemorated annually on the third Saturday of Souls.

When should we hold memorials? The practice of the Church is to hold them on Saturdays (since the souls are traditionally commemorated on Saturdays); however, the common practice has become Sundays, since we gather on Sundays for Liturgy. Regarding the usual times for memorials, besides the Saturdays of the Souls (the ‘psychosavata’), it should be noted that, according to ancient sources, memorials were held on the third, sixth, ninth, and fortieth day, as well as one year, after someone died. Currently, memorials are held around the fortieth day and the first anniversary of one’s death (although they may also take place at other times as well).

To arrange a memorial, one calls the church to schedule the service with the priest. If they would also like to hold a service at the gravesite, they discuss that with the priest as well. The name of the one for whom the memorial was arranged should be given to the priest (additional names may also be given for commemoration during the Preparation of the Gifts [the ‘Proskomidi’] and the Liturgy). It is traditional – though not required – to bring other items as well: Prosforon and wine, for use during the Liturgy, and olive oil, for the vigil light on the Altar.

As we pray, not only for the living (the Church Militant) but for the souls (the Church Triumphant) as well, we are drawn together with our Lord and Savior. Let us come together at all possible opportunities, seeking His blessings and His salvation.

Father Anthony Stratis / Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

SATURDAY OF SOULS

ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ (PSYCHOSAVATA)

ORTHROS @8AM & DIVINE LITURGY @9:15AM

MARCH 6TH, 13TH 20TH,

LIST OF NAMES Please write clearly the *+Names* of your beloved for eternal memory and blessed repose. They will be prayed for on **all three Saturdays**. You may submit your **+List** along with your offering for the priest by 9am on day of service or bring **+List** to the office before Saturday.

Baptismal +Names please: for example *+Nicholas NOT Nick or Niko or...*, *+Vasiliki NOT Vickie or Vaso or...*, *Konstantinos NOT Dean or Costa or....* *+Chrysanthi NOT Chrissy or Chris or....*

KOLLYVA: Arrange for your kollyva and bring your donation to the office with your check payable to St. Andrew or bring your prepared kollyva from home.

1. **Kollyva prepared at home:** Please bring to church by 8:45am. Place dish on table and submit **+List** of Names with your offering.
2. **Individual Kollyva dish** If you do not want to prepare your own you may wish to order from the church your individual Kollyva dish for your beloved the cost for kollyva is **\$30**.
3. **COMMUNAL KOLLYVA TRAY** Many parishioners participate in the Saint Andrew COMMUNAL KOLLYVA TRAY. The cost for this is \$15 each week or **\$45** for all three Saturdays

Please contact the office and make arrangements by Thursday before the Saturday of Souls.

973-584-0388 info@standrewgonj.org

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
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info@standrewgonj.org (973)584-0388

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS

Σάββατο των ψυχών

Please PRINT CLEARLY + **BAPTISMAL NAME** (1st Name) only
For the repose of the soul of:

+ _____	+ _____	+ _____
+ _____	+ _____	+ _____
+ _____	+ _____	+ _____
+ _____	+ _____	+ _____
+ _____	+ _____	+ _____
+ _____	+ _____	+ _____
+ _____	+ _____	+ _____

Baptismal Names please: for example +*Nicholas* NOT Nick, +*Vasiliki* NOT Vickie

Αιωνία η Μνήμη Αυτών **May Their Memory Be Eternal**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____