



On the occasion of the commemoration of the reception of his Relics at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica (Sunday after Theophany)

St. Joseph the New of Cappadocia*

Life and Miracles

1. *Ascension of Cappadocia*

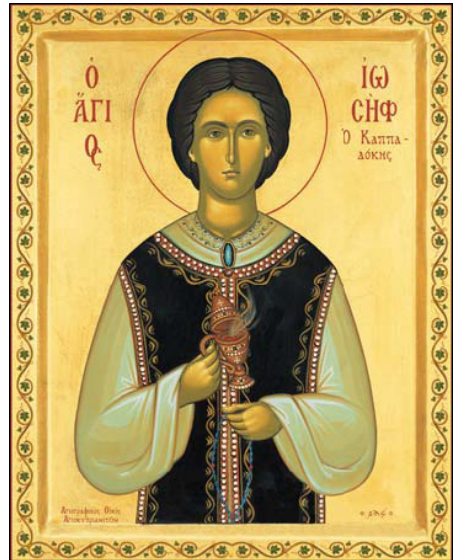
St. Joseph was born between 1820 and 1830. He hailed from Kermir, in Cappadocia (near Caesarea), and his name was Joseph Kioseirkoglou.

Tall, slender, pale, very handsome, and of Angelic countenance, he would wear a long garment like a *rason* and a small vest when censing.

The holy Joseph was a peddler and a pilgrim—a great man of prayer who sowed the word of God wherever he went.

On one of his journeys, he suddenly reposed around the age of thirty. After his burial, the Turks set a guard so that the Christians would not steal his Relics, since a light frequently appeared above his grave.

The relatives of the blessed Joseph instinctively knew that he was



a Saint. For this reason, some time later, they decided to take possession of the Holy Relics of the sanctified peddler, in order to honor them and keep them as a blessing. The removal and transfer of these Relics took place in a miraculous way one night: They carefully dug as the guard slept, whereupon, with a light snap, the sacred bones all joined together of their own accord, so that the Saint's relatives were easily able to gather them up with two shovels and depart.

Though pursued by the guard, who had awoken and understood what had happened, the Grace of the Saint helped them to escape unharmed with the invaluable treasure.

Having returned to Caesarea, his hungry and beleaguered relatives went to sleep somewhere on the road, saying:

"If you are a Saint, show us a sign!"

Suddenly, his five relatives were awakened by a slap on their faces... and there before them lay five fresh loaves of bread!

The family of St. Joseph divided his Holy Relics among themselves, honoring them and glorifying God for this great blessing.

2. Apparitions and miracles

One of the Saint's relatives, who kept this priceless treasure at her house, frequently witnessed miraculous events.

When she would return home after working outdoors, she would try to open the door to enter, but was not, strangely enough, able to do so. She would then hear the sound of a censer inside, just like at the Divine Liturgy! Finally, when she would enter, the room where she kept the Holy Relics was filled with a Divine fragrance!

The Saint would distinctly appear both to this relative and to other devout visitors. Once, as soon as this relative entered her house, she found herself before a young man, who said to her:

"Do not be afraid! I am the Patron Saint of your house! I have come to tell you that such and such a neighbor vowed to bring me a container of oil, but did not bring it."

And the youth immediately vanished.

She told her neighbor what had taken place, and the latter,

staggered, confessed that she had indeed made such a vow.

Apart from his apparitions, the Saint also healed the infirmities of many faithful who came to the house and venerated his Holy Relics with faith.

After the death of this relative, the precious treasure was inherited by her daughter, whose sister-in-law once removed one of the Saint's fingers. Her hands immediately broke out in pimples, but the doctors were unable to do anything to help her. The sacrilegious sufferer then saw the Saint in a dream telling her to return his finger. As soon as she had returned it, she became completely well.

It is also noteworthy that, during a great epidemic that struck Cappadocia, many people, including Turks, were healed using water blessed by the Saint's sacred Relics.

3. *Constantinople to Athens*

After the catastrophe in Asia Minor, in 1922, St. Joseph's relative moved to Constantinople, where she continued to preserve and honor the priceless treasure, which her pious daughter inherited after her death.

Once, her house's *Iconostasis* caught fire and all of the Icons were burned. Though the fire advanced menacingly, as soon as it reached the wooden box containing the sacred Relics, it suddenly went out on its own!

Another time, when burglars broke into the house, turning everything upside down to find valuable objects, strangely enough, they did not see the gold jewelry laid out on the table! This was attributed to the protection of St. Joseph.

This protection was vividly evident again in 1978, when the relative decided to leave Constantinople and move to Athens. Greeks were strictly prohibited from bringing bones of the reposed into Greece. The Saint's relative, however, could in no way separate herself from the invaluable family treasure. She then ardently prayed to St. Joseph, and the miracle happened: At the Turkish and Greek custom-houses, though the officers examined all of the luggage, they miraculously did not open, or even touch, the bag with the Relics!

On December 1, 1981, this relative reposed in the Lord and her pious niece, Nike Chatzatoglou, decided to offer the priceless trea-

sure to the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica.

The Monastery had the especial blessing of receiving the Grace-filled Relics of the newly-revealed St. Joseph of Cappadocia on the Sunday after Theophany in the year of Salvation 1982 (January 11/24).

* * *

Nike Chatzatoglou, who donated the Holy Relics to the Monastery of St. Cyprian, had received them from her aunt, to whom they had been given by her aunt's mother (Nike's grandmother), Elizabeth Georgiadou-Chrestou, who had inherited them from her mother (Nike's great-grandmother).

This great-grandmother was the one who shared the Holy Relics of their relative, St. Joseph, with her sister-in-law after the Relics' exhumation and transferal to Caesarea.



4. Miraculous interventions

On the Sunday after Theophany, in 1984 (January 16/29), the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina festively honored the memory of St. Joseph for the first time. The Fathers set out the Grace-filled Relics of the newly-revealed Saint for veneration and handed out a four-page leaflet to the faithful containing the Life of the Saint, the *Apolytikia* dedicated to him, and two photographs of his Holy Relics.

One devout believer, G. P, who attended Church that day at the Monastery, related the following wondrous events that happened to her after she had venerated the Saint:

I placed the leaflet with the life and miracles of St. Joseph on a shelf in our living room. Around 10 p.m., I impulsively took the leaflet, kissed the photo of the Holy Relics, and called upon the Grace of the Saint for the sake of my health.

As soon as I had done so, the leaflet exuded the same extraordinary fragrance that exists in Holy Relics, mixed with incense! The whole house was fragrant for half an hour and we could vividly

feel the presence of the Saint, but without seeing him. The strange thing was that at that very moment a toy with four little Angels, which turn and ring small bells when one puts four lighted candles underneath, began jingling! There were no candles this time, but the little bells rang away for a full half hour, stopping at precisely the moment when the Divine fragrance ended!

The same thing happened again the next day, though without the ringing of the bells. Carrying the same leaflet like an amulet in my purse, I traveled to Homonoia by train. It was 10 a.m., and I was thinking with deep emotion about the great honor St. Joseph showed to my house by his visit, and I thanked him.

Immediately, the same fragrance filled the car in which I was sitting! Everyone asked each other: "How can it smell like incense when no one has censed and the train has not even passed by a Church?" This lasted between fifteen and twenty minutes, and all of the objects in my bag were fragrant for nearly the entire day!

The next day, as I thought about these events, the house filled with the same fragrance, but this time not as long.

5. The Icon of the Saint

During the year of Salvation 1984, when the memory of St. Joseph was honored for the first time at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, the Lord, in His love for mankind, was well pleased to provide a vivid testimony of the Saint, in order that his Icon might be painted.

The same devout believer who had experienced the moving signs involving the leaflet containing the life of the Saint fervently prayed to this newly-revealed servant of God.

It was midnight, the day after the commemoration of the Saint, January 17/30, 1984. Suddenly, while she was still saying her prayers before going to sleep, St. John the Russian, whom her family deeply revered, vividly appeared before her.

St. John—who, it should be noted, also fought the good fight for holiness in Cappadocia—"presented" St. Joseph, shining like an Angel, to the awe-struck woman. The two Saints from Cappadocia appeared three times consecutively: first St. John and then St. Joseph, while the same marvellous fragrance of the previous days filled the

room!

St. Joseph was precisely as his relatives had described him: tall, wearing a garment like a *rason* and a vest, with a censer in his right hand and a prayer rope in the other. His face was Angelic!

Finally, after various ordeals, this devout believer was able, in 1989, to prepare a first sketch of St. Joseph based on the vision she had seen, so that his Icon could be painted.

A sense of the sacredness and responsibility of this task, however, prompted her to pray with contrition and humility to the Saint, asking that his features be confirmed in another way so that there would be no doubt as to the matter.

Time passed... and the holy Joseph “answered,” appearing to a spiritual child of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina. Saint Joseph had miraculously healed this man’s son in 1990. The Saint exhorted the parishioner (who, of course, knew nothing about the Icon):

“Look at me carefully three times! See what I look like, so that you can tell it to your Bishop!”

The parishioner rushed to the Monastery the next morning, recounted his vision, and described St. Joseph’s features: they were exactly the same as those portrayed in the sketch by the pious woman!

6. Healing of osteochondritis of the hip

MY NAME is M.A., I am a public servant, and live in Athens. I feel the need to describe, in a few words, the trial sent to me by God.

For four years, I have been attending services at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, where I receive spiritual guidance.

On February 24, 1990, my eldest son displayed symptoms on his right leg of a disorder called osteochondritis of the hip, which resulted in a limp. His condition grew increasingly worse, until the point where, one morning, he began to drag himself with his hands, not being able to use his paralyzed leg at all.

We naturally took him, at first, to many doctors and hospitals, but heard only opinions—he needed rest, his left leg also had a problem, and so on—without any substantial results. One specialist, in fact,

who had come from England for a few days, told us that if physical therapy did not work, we would have to cut his leg, which would thus become shorter. What is more, the operation was not sure to succeed, and would require time, money, and patience.

We decided to follow physical therapy without the use of medicine. At the doctors' advice, we went to a clinic, where my son would have to undergo treatment for at least twenty days. The doctor also stressed the need for something very difficult for a four-year-old child: he would have to remain quiet and completely immobile!

Twelve days went by at the clinic, during which I fervently prayed to God to help and strengthen me, while thanking Him for the trial He had sent me. One evening, I spoke over the phone with my spiritual Father, who advised me to pray to St. Joseph the New of Cappadocia, whose Holy Relics** were at the Monastery of St. Cyprian in Phyle. I told him that I was unworthy and too feeble for such a thing, which is why I asked him to pray himself to the Saint regarding my problem. He replied: "You *must also pray*!"

After that call, I began to pray with my prayer rope and felt a rekindling of faith and hope, took courage, and my despair departed. I also anointed my son's leg with oil from the perpetual vigil lamp which I had previously been given at the Monastery.

At one point, around 11 p.m., as I was praying unceasingly to St. Joseph with faith and fervor, calling to mind the Relics of the Saint, the following event suddenly took place: A powerful shudder passed throughout my entire body, and cold air struck my face as if someone were blowing on me. At the same time, the oil on my forehead began to burn me intensely. I clearly felt as if a wooden cross had been affixed to my forehead.

Simultaneously, my son, who was sleeping in front of me, made a sudden movement and stretched his bad leg. I heard a noise like when one cracks his knuckles, but louder and deeper. I understood that something was taking place....

I forgot to mention that, apart from pain and paralysis, my son's problem also did not allow his leg to perform all of its normal motions, and it could not stretch out.

After a few days, the doctors performed new tests, and said: "*There has been a development, but it is too early to go into specifics.*" Follow-

ing this pronouncement, we left the clinic, though the doctors were firmly opposed to such a move. I, however, knew that St. Joseph had healed my child.

We went home and, after two days, we visited the non-resident doctor who had previously attended to the child. His joy was indescribable. He was made very hopeful by this success, though in reality the Saint of God, Joseph, had intervened.

Now everything is in accordance with God's will: My son Basil is fine, can make all of his regular motions, does not hurt, walks, and is improving day by day. All of this, even though the twenty days they told us to stay in the hospital have not yet passed....

* * *

I forgot to write the following. Earlier in the evening in which the miracle happened to my son, around 7 p.m., I was speaking to a certain Mrs. Katholike in the hospital hallway. Her child had a microbe in its blood and had long been in the hospital. I spoke to her about St. Joseph, and then we went to her child and I anointed it on its forehead with oil from the Saint. The next day, the woman told me that they would be leaving that day, because the child was better.

I wonder, will she have understood that it was St. Joseph that healed her child who was in the clinic for many months?

I thank you, Saint of God, Joseph.

*Published in the periodical Hagios Kyprianos,
No. 236 (May-June, 1990), pp. 179-180.*

**** Note:**

The foregoing miracle, as well as those that follow, speak about the Holy Relics of St. Joseph because the Brotherhood of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina "joined" the Relics together with pure wax, following a "sign" by the Saint, so that it constituted a single body in its natural size, and was placed in a special reliquary.

7. Deliverance from nightmares and fears

MY NAME is D. D. and I live in Corinth.

In January of 1993, I had **nightmares** night and day that my child would die. I continually envisioned a funeral at my house and experienced various nightmarish dreams. During the day, I had terrible fears and expected any moment that my child would be brought to me dead.

This had never happened to me before in my life. For two days I did not go to work. I prayed continually, but this state of mind continued.

On the third day, I took the Icon of the *Panagia Phaneromene*, and asked her where I should go and which Saint I should beseech so that I would become well and nothing bad would happen to my child.

At noon, without understanding exactly why, I decided that we should go to the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina. Inside the Church, I saw the Relics of St. Joseph of Cappadocia and, knowing that miracles take place wherever there are Relics of Saints, I ran, venerated them, sat next to the Saint, and prayed that he make me well and that my child would suffer no evil. I also asked him to grant me joy as proof that my prayer had been heard.

When we left the Monastery, my fears had vanished and, until the time we reached home, we felt inexpressible joy within us.

I thank God, the *Panagia*, and St. Joseph, who help us in every difficult moment of our lives.

August 12, 1993

Published in the periodical Hagios Kyprianos,
No. 253-254 (March-June, 1993), p. 138.

8. *“The Holy Relics were bathed in light!”*

ON SATURDAY, February 14, 1993 (Old Style), I. B. D., a young man from Hagios Paulos, Athens, a high school student, told us the following miracle worked by St. Joseph the New of Cappadocia.

Beginning in October of 1992, young I. began to experience various difficulties, especially in the classroom at school. Though he was an excellent student, he was no longer able to perform well, would become tongue-tied, etc. His difficulties also continued at home.

Since he was a believer, went to confession, and communed regularly, he was particularly perplexed and worried by this condition. He was patient, however, and prayed a great deal.

From various indications, he realized that an acquaintance of his at school, moved by envy, had performed black magic on him! When he was not at school, especially during sit-ins or vacations, he would feel better. At home, however, he would fall under the influence of

demonic activity, especially in the evening.

While the devout I. was bearing the cross of this temptation, one day an Icon of the Lord Almighty somehow appeared before him, with Sts. Basil the Great, Charalambos the Hieromartyr, Nikodemos the Hagiorite, and Joseph of Cappadocia at His side!

He hastened with reverence to make a diptych with small Icons of our Lord and these Saints, exactly as it had appeared to him. He always carried it with him as an amulet, and indeed derived help from it.

But the young I. was confronted with a problem: St. Joseph of Cappadocia was completely unknown to him. Where could he find an Icon portraying him? As a temporary solution, he added an Icon of St. Joseph the Betrothed in the place of the Cappadocian.

On the Sunday after Theophany, January 11, 1993 (Old Style), according to our Monastery's established custom, we festively celebrated the memory of St. Joseph the Cappadocian and brought his Relics into the Church for public worship so that the faithful could venerate them.

Something "strange" happened to the young I.: On that very day, he was in a bad state, mentally. After the Divine Liturgy in Athens, he felt an inner impulse to visit our Monastery and to venerate our Patron Saints, as he had frequently done since 1986, without, however, knowing anything about the newly-revealed St. Joseph.

He arrived at our Monastery at noon. As soon as he entered the Church, he was astonished by a preternatural light shining above a large "chest." The impulse that had overtaken him grew more intense.... Mystified and frightened, he approached.... A sign informed him that it was the reliquary containing the Holy Relics of St. Joseph of Cappadocia!

The Holy Relics were bathed in light! He fell down and venerated them with fear, joy, and contrition. Precisely the moment he venerated the Saint, he felt a "jolt," and that was it! He immediately grew calm and his health and joy returned!



We provided him with a small Icon of the Saint, which he placed in his diptych. He has this blessed amulet open before him on his desk during lessons, when says the “Our Father....”

*Published in the periodical Hagios Kyprianos,
No. 259 (March–April, 1994), p. 225–226.*



Hymns
to St. Joseph the New of Cappadocia
Commemoration: Sunday after Theophany

Apolytikion
Fourth Tone. Be swift to anticipate.

Having been well-pleasing to Christ through thy virtuous life, when thou didst complete thy course thou becamest a companion of the Saints in the Heavens; wherefore, as thou dost enjoy the glory on high, O Joseph, intercede with the Master of all, we implore thee, that He grant us forgiveness of sins.

Kontakion
Second Tone. By the streams of thy blood.

As thou didst pass thy life in a God-pleasing manner, thou dost participate in the splendor of the Saints; with them, O Joseph, entreat that those who celebrate thy memory with love may be delivered from all corruption and necessity.

Megalynarion

Rejoice, O all-renowned Joseph, who wast distinguished on earth for thine irreproachable life; rejoice, thou who in glory art equal in honor with the Saints, with whom do thou beseech Divine mercy for us.

*Composed by the ever-memorable
Monk Gerasimos Mikragiannanites,
Hymnographer of the Great Church of Christ,
in the year 1983.*

*** Sources:**

a) The Life of St. Joseph the New of Cappadocia (19th century) was published for the first time in the periodical *Hagios Kyprianos*, No. 170 (February 1983), pp. 168-169.

b) This Life was published a second time in our pocket Church calendar for 1989 (Ekdosis Hieras Mones Hagion Kyprianou kai Ioustines, Phyle, Attica), with additional historical data and miracles by St. Joseph.