



Nectarios. And behold the miracle! From that time my pains stopped, I felt well, and the flow of blood ceased. Blessed is God in His Saints!

III

Miss Catherine Drettakis, a resident of 13 Strategou Koutouli Street, Koukaki, Athens, relates the following: My father,

Emmanuel Drettakis, suffered from kidney stones. On July 17, 1962, he had a crisis of the kidneys. He went to the physician Androulakis and was examined. The latter said that stones had been formed and his condition was critical. His condition worsened, and at the advice of the same physician he entered the Clinic "Precious Cross," on July 26, 1962. As soon as he was admitted, they tested his blood and found that the urea had reached 1.95. They made an X-ray examination of the kidneys and found that they were swollen and the flow of urine was blocked. The physician told us that an operation had to be performed on July 28, but my father entreated the doctor to postpone the operation, so he postponed it to July 30. The afternoon before the operation, my father begged my mother to bring him some oil of Saint Nectarios. As soon as she brought it, he got up, prayed for five minutes, and drank it. The same evening I had a photograph of the Saint, which I placed on my pillow, and I prayed almost during the whole night to the Saint to restore my father's health. After he took the oil, his water began to pass like a stream and simultaneously the stones began to come out one after the other. The next day, the blood and the urine were tested. They were normal; and my father returned home full of health, thanks to the miraculous prayers of the Saint.



St. Nectarius serving at Liturgy.

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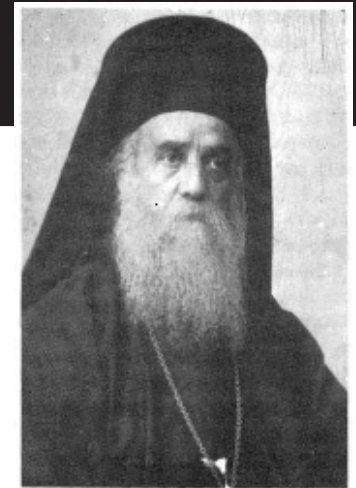
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# Saint Nectarius

## *The Wonderworker*

### *Patron of Cancer Sufferers*



St. Nectarius in later years

Saint Nectarius was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, and a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nectarius. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nectarius went to Athens to study from 1882-1885. He then went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest, and later made him an Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nectarius showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when Nectarius was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

On January 15, 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nectarius was consecrated Metropolitan of the Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. Although Nectarius' swift ascent through the degrees of



ecclesiastical office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, it aroused the envy of lesser men, who convinced the elderly Sophronius that Nectarius had it in his heart to become Patriarch. Since the people loved Nectarius, the Patriarch was troubled by the slanders. On May 3, 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nectarius of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nectarius to leave Egypt.

Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens, where he found that accusations of immorality had arrived before him. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboea; then, in 1894, he was appointed dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons his unwearying labours to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous alms deeds despite his own

poverty, and the holiness, meekness, and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many. At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while yet dean of the Rizarios School; finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer. He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers delivering the island from drought, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Here also he endured wicked slanders with singular patience, forgiving his false accusers and not seeking to avenge himself. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nectarius is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.

## Miracles of St Nectarios

### I

During the last days of his life, the Saint was in the room for the incurables of the hospital, among many poor patients who were at the point of death. Beside his bed there was a patient who was paralysed for years. As soon as the Saint gave up his spirit, a nurse of the hospital together with the nun who had accompanied the Saint, began to prepare the holy body for transportation to Aegina and burial. When they removed the old sweater of the Saint, they placed it for convenience on the bed of the paralytic and continued preparing the body. Strangely, the paralytic patient at once became well and rose from his bed, praising the Lord. This was the first miracle after the repose of the Saint, through which God our Lord confirmed the sainthood of Nectarios.

### II

Mrs. Anna Ioannou Katsounaki, a resident of Piraeus, relates the following: In 1949, I was operated on at the anticancer hospital "Saint Savvas" because I was suffering from cancer, and they removed my entire uterus. When the

definite period of therapy was over, Doctor Papaconstantinou joyfully declared that I had now escaped from the danger of death. "Do not be afraid any longer," he said. "However, if you should ever see blood, then realise that your end has arrived, because it is a sign that cancer has appeared somewhere again and has produced a new malignant spot."

Eight years passed since then, when in May, 1957, I felt pains in my abdomen, which resulted in the appearance of blood one evening, that is, of that sign which was notifying me of my end. I spent all that night sitting in my bed and crying inconsolably. In the morning my sister Eleftheria and her husband Nicholas Mortzanos, returning from Aegina, where they had spent the Easter holy days, visited me at home. Although I wanted to conceal my misfortune, in order not to make them unhappy, my sister, seeing my pitiful state, insisted on learning what troubled me. As she insisted, my husband revealed the truth. My sister at once, displaying no fear, but with composure and confidence, which she drew from her faith in the miracle worker Saint Nectarios, approached me and consoled me, saying: "Don't be afraid, my sister. You believe in God and accept the many miracles of St. Nectarios which have taken place in our family." At this point she took a small bottle from her handbag, containing oil from the sacred lamp (kandela) of Saint Nectarios, gave it to me and said: "Take this and pray to the Saint to make you well. I shall pray, too. Daub your abdomen with this blessed oil of the Saint, and rest assured that in this way you shall become well." I complied fully with her suggestion, prayed, sought the help of St.

