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Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

Did you ever stop and wonder what makes one a saint? I am not referring to the ecclesiastical procedures, but the personal, the individual attributes that qualify one as a saint. On the Sunday after Pentecost, we are called to give our attention to building up the Body of Christ – The Church by becoming “saints”!

Responding to the interests of many people, the Rev. Fr. Jon Magoulias and I are blessed to announce that we are planning a pilgrimage from October 12 – 26, 2015 entitled: “Saints Alive”! This experience will take us to some of the most famous and revered sites of our Christian Orthodox Faith. It will enable us to learn the lives of saints who were people just like us and journeyed through life to give glory to God.

We will visit Constantinople and the Ecumenical Patriarchate where the relics of many saints are venerated; we will travel to Trabzon (Trebizon) on the Black Sea (known as Pontus) to visit sites that have been only been opened to us in recent years. At Trabzon we will visit the famous monastery of Panaghia Soumela, along with other churches and museums. Today the monastery's primary function is as a tourist attraction. It overlooks forests and streams, making it extremely popular for its aesthetic attraction as well as for its cultural and religious significance. As of 2012, the Turkish government has been funding restoration work, and the monastery is enjoying a revival in pilgrimage from Greece, the USA and Russia.

Visiting the most important sites from Northern Greece to Athens, we will go to the Monastery of St. John the Theologian in Souroti to venerate the relics of recently canonized saint, St. Paisios. Continue to Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki, we will venerate the relics of St. Demetrios, St. Gregory Palamas, and others. Traveling to the Kalambaka, we will go to the monasteries of Meteora to venerate relics and icons usually not brought forth. Continuing on our pilgrimage we will visit the city of Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, located around beautiful Lake Pamvotida and the place where St. George of Ioannina was martyred on January 17, 1838. Directly across from Ioannina, we will take a day trip to the island of Corfu and visit the church where the relics of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker are kept.

In addition to visiting the many churches, monasteries and shrines, there will be plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Attached to this email is the information regarding our pilgrimage: Saints Alive! We hope you will consider joining us on this pilgrimage which will further enhance your faith.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Jon at the Church of the Annunciation, Stephen Soterakis at Cloud Tours or myself.

In our Risen Lord,

*Father Peter*

**❖ Church of the Holy Cross ❖**  
**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America - Metropolis of San Francisco**

## “Saints Alive”

### PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY & GREECE

Join Reverend Fr. Jon E. Magoulas of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Modesto, California & Reverend Fr. Peter G. Salmas of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont, California on an unforgettable Spiritual Odyssey!

**October 12-26, 2015**

**15 Days/13 Nights**



**Constantinople - Trabzon – Thessaloniki – Philippi - Kavala – Meteora Monasteries – Ioannina – Corfu – Athens**

**TURKEY:** Our Pilgrimage will take us to Constantinople, the heart of Orthodoxy. Visit the 17<sup>th</sup> century Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate. Pray at the St George Cathedral and venerate the Holy Relics of Saints Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom and the relics of the three female Saints - Euphemia, Solomone and Theophano. Participate in a private audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (subject to his availability). Visit the most important sites for the Greek Orthodox in Constantinople: Agia Sophia, the Church of the Holy Savior of Chora and Panaghia Blacherna were the beautiful hymn, “Te Ypermacho” was chanted over 1,400 years ago and the Grand Bazaar. Visit the city of Trabzon on the coast of the Black Sea. Visit the Monastery of Panaghia Sumela perched on the side of the mountain, Agia Sophia, Panaghia Theoskepasti, Panghia Chrysokephalou, Kappagiannidis and the Theofilaktou Museum.

**GREECE:** Visit the most important sites from Northern Greece to Athens. Begin with a visit to the Monastery of St. John the Theologian in Souroti to venerate the relics of St. Paisios. Continue to Greece’s second largest city, Thessaloniki. Enjoy a full day tour of Thessaloniki including the Cathedral of St. Demetrios, Moni Vlatadon, Osios David and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Visit Philippi and Kavala or Ancient Neopolis. Continue on to Kalambaka and attend Liturgy at the Meteora Monasteries. You will receive a very warm welcome at the Monasteries and venerate relics and icons usually not brought forth. Visit the city of Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, located around beautiful Lake Pamvotida. Take a day trip to the island of Corfu and visit the Church of St. Spyridon. End your trip with a stay in Athens and enjoy a traditional Greek dinner in the town of Kalyvia.

**Rates: Air & Land: Double occupancy, per person: \$3580\***

**& Single Occupancy: \$4415\***

*\*All rates reflect a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made in any other way.*

*Air tax/fuel surcharge of \$615 is included in the above rates and not guaranteed until ticketing takes place.*

**SPACE IS LIMITED and on a FIRST COME BASIS**

**Deposit of \$500 due by June 15, 2015 or late booking fee of \$50 per person will apply!**

Extensions in Greece available

#### **TOUR INCLUDES:**

\*International air SFO/IST/Trabzon/IST/SKG & ATH/IST/SFO on Turkish Airlines

\*Private audience with His All Holiness (subject to his availability)

\*First class hotel accommodations in Turkey & Greece: 2 nts. Constantinople, 2 nts. Trabzon, 3 nts. Thessaloniki, 1 nt. Kalambaka, 3 nts. Ioannina, 2 nts. Athens

\*All hotel taxes, service fees and daily breakfast & six dinners

\*farewell dinner in a traditional Greek tavern in the town of Kalyvia

\*All private arrival and departure transfers with English/Greek-speaking guide

\*Eleven days of sightseeing in air-conditioned motorcoach with English/Greek speaking Orthodox guides & all entrance fees

\*Round trip scheduled ferry tickets to Corfu

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I am requesting services for \_\_\_\_\_ people. The exact name on the passport (s) is/are:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Daytime Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Requests: Meals (Diabetic, vegetarian etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
Rooming with: \_\_\_\_\_ Star Alliance # \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

SELECT BETWEEN OPTIONS I, II:

OPTION I: Select either double or single occupancy inclusive of air from SFO/IST/TZX /IST/SKG & ATH/IST/SFO

Per person double occupancy \$3580\* x 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Single occupancy \$4415\* x 1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Above rates include the air/fuel surcharge of approximately \$615 that is not guaranteed until ticketing takes place

OPTION II: Select either double or single occupancy land only (No flights included)

Land only rate per person double occupancy \$3140\* x 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Land only rate single occupancy \$3980\* x 1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ALL OPTIONS: Please add: Gratuities per person \$ 200 x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (not optional)

Delivery of documents \$ 25 x 1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 25.00 (not optional)

\*Rates reflect a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made in any other way. Air/Fuel tax is not guaranteed until group tickets are issued approximately 30 days prior to departure.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION: Premium is based on the value of your trip:

For trip value: \$3001- \$4000= \$235 x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For trip value: \$4001- \$5000= \$295 x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL CHARGES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this res form, a copy of your passport and a deposit of \$500 per person payable to Cloud Tours Inc to the address indicated below. SPACE IS LIMITED! RESERVE NOW! DEADLINE: June 15, 2015 or late booking fee. \$50 applies.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- \*International air SFO/IST/TZX/IST SKG & ATH/IST/SFO on Turkish Airlines.
\*First class hotel accommodations in Turkey & Greece: 2 nts. Constantinople, 2 nts. Trabzon, 3 nts. Thessaloniki, 1 nt. Kalambaka, 3 nts. Ioannina, 2 nts. Athens.
\*All hotel taxes, service fees and daily breakfast & six dinners.
\*Eleven days of sightseeing in air-conditioned motorcoach with English/Greek speaking Orthodox guides & all entrance fees.
\*Private audience with His All Holiness (subject to his availability).
\*Farewell dinner in a traditional Greek tavern in the town of Kalyvia.
\*Roundtrip scheduled ferry tickets to Corfu.
\*All private arrival and departure transfers with English/Greek-speaking guide.

CONDITIONS: Confirmation is subject to receipt of deposit with reservation form no later than June 15, 2015. A copy of your passport is also requested with the reservation form. Deposits received on June 16, 2015 and later are subject to an additional \$50 late booking fee and applicable air surcharges. Final balance due by July 17, 2015. Air taxes & fuel surcharges are not guaranteed unless ticketed. Ticketing must occur for the group at the same time. A minimum of 25 people required or additional fees will apply. Cancellation fees: Once deposit is received, an administration fee of \$150 per person applies in cases of all cancellations. Additional fees for cancellations received between July 27-Aug 23, \$500 per person and between Aug 24-Sep 20, 75% of the tour price and between Sept 21- day of departure, non-refundable. No refund for no-shows or unused portions of tour. Additional cancellation fees may be imposed by suppliers subject to date of cancellation. Should the group cancel for any reason, including political strife, Cloud Tours reserves the right to charge a \$100 per person administration fee. Travel protection is recommended & must be paid with deposit to waive the pre-existing medical conditions exclusion. Travel protection is nonrefundable. You may request a copy of the Description of Coverage, prior to purchase, which includes the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions. This plan provides insurance coverage for your trip that applies only during the covered trip. You may have coverage from other sources that provides you with similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon your other coverages. You may wish to compare the terms of this policy with your existing life, health, home and automobile policies. If you have any questions about your current coverage, call your insurer, insurance agent or broker. The purchase of this plan is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service offered to you by your travel retailer. Cloud Tours reserves the right to deny service to any person based upon its discretion and/or the particular needs or circumstances of a given group.