

**This was sent to me from Fr Basilio, a monk at
Vatopedi Monastery in Mount Athos**

Dear Fr. Basil,

Please read the message below that we all received from our Head Priest. The message is from the keeper of the Hawaiian Myrrh steaming Icon of the Mother of God:

After speaking with my spiritual father (who's in Greece) a few moments ago, I received his blessing to share with people a miracle that occurred last night on our island, involving our Miracle-working Iveron Icon. I hope it brings you comfort. After the Great Canon service last night, I was asked to visit a coma patient named Duke at Castle Hospital in Kailua. I was invited by a Roman Catholic family, who have been to our parish many times to venerate the holy Icon. In fact, one of their family members was healed of cancer after being anointed with myrrh from the Iveron Icon. We finished the canon service a little before 8pm and I arrived at the hospital around 8:20 or so. Several family members were patiently waiting for the Mother of God, to escort us to intensive care. They had been waiting for over two hours. Security let us in, and we proceeded to the second floor. I noticed that Bishop John Frederick was there. His Grace Bishop John is a Chaldean (Assyrian) Catholic bishop who resides here in the islands. He has a small parish in Waipahu. He has been to our church several times to venerate the Holy Icon. He is a friend. He is highly regarded in the local Roman Catholic community. As the Iveron Icon was escorted into the ICU, we were required to wear masks, gloves, etc, so as not to bring in any outside bacteria or contamination, standard procedure in the hospital nowadays. I approached the young man, in his 40s (I imagine?), and noticed he was hooked up to various machines, a breathing apparatus, etc. I removed the Holy Icon from Her carrying bag (Chuhol), and placed Her on the hospital bed, next to his head. I then anointed him with the Holy Myrrh. The family asked me to lead a simple prayer service for the sick, according to Orthodox custom. They were not too familiar with our Church traditions. I was happy to oblige. I chanted a basic prayer service; the introductory prayers, Trisagion hymns, psalms, and finally the prayer to the Mother of God that I usually read when I make hospital visits with the Holy Icon throughout the country. When asked, I visit anyone who's sick, including non-Orthodox Christians.

As we came to the part of the prayer where we ask the Mother of God to lay her Veil upon the individual, the coma patient, Duke, grabbed my hand, opened his eyes, and said, "I'm thirsty." A shock to all of us to say the least. I could barely finish the prayer, it was very emotional. The Intercessions of the Mother of God are quick indeed. "I'm thirsty," those words are a reflection of Christ's words on the Cross.

The family related, that they were talking to him all day, whether he could hear them or not, and letting him know that the Mother of God is coming to visit him that day. She did, in more ways than one.

Please keep Duke and his family in your prayers. I found out today, after additional tests, they cannot find any meningitis in his system. And God willing, after more additional tests, will be releasing him from the hospital. He's awake and alert and eating. Praise God!

There have been many miracles attributed to the Mother of God through our humble little Icon, but this is the newest, and I wanted to share this miraculous story with you, to give you encouragement during this Lenten season. I hope it does.

This time of year is filled with a massive onslaught of demonic temptation. We are all affected by it.

Remember that throughout this time, the Lord is with us, and here in Hawaii the Mother of God has taken a particular interest in our well being. She loves us, and wants us to succeed in our path home to Christ Our Lord.

May the Mother of God watch over all of us and keep us safe under Her sacred Omophorion (Veil).

In Christ's love,
Subdeacon Nectarios, a sinner

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**An Icon of St John the Forerunner
Gushing Myrrh in Chicago
From the National Herald
by Theodore Kalmoukos
March 16, 2016**

An unexplained phenomenon has been occurring since July 19th 2015 in the community of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Homer Glen, IL where an Icon of Saint John the Forerunner exudes a fragrant liquid. The National Herald contacted Father Sotirios Dimitriou, and he said "the icon of St. John the Forerunner exudes some kind of liquid that has a beautiful scent. It was first discovered by two female parishioners who usually sit in the first row of the pews, Niki Mihalopoulos and Miki Prais. Also, among the first to notice it was the chanter Nikos Angelopoulos."

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Icon: Homer Glen con't

Fr. Sotirios also said, "I was sick in the hospital when the phenomenon started and when I came out of the hospital I was told immediately," and he added, "when I went to kiss the icon I noticed that indeed there was a certain liquid running, trickles that were fragrant, and I didn't know what it was."

Fr. Sotirios said that "we did not write or publish anything, but the phenomenon has spread by word of mouth," and added, "you are the first I have spoken with. Some have reported it on social media."

Fr. Sotirios listed cases of sick people who were cured of various diseases they suffered and ascribed their treatment to the miraculous intervention of the Forerunner.

He said that, "a person named John underwent surgery at the University Hospital of Chicago and they removed a tumor from his kidney. When he went home he began to bleed internally. The rushed him again to the hospital on Christmas and the doctors concluded he needed to be opened, but the oncologist told them to wait. His cousin went to the hospital and told him, "I went to church and brought you some myrrh from the icon. Can I anoint you?" And he said "yes please". The next morning the doctors examined him and said there was no need to submit him into surgery, everything was alright and the blood from his stomach was absorbed by his body.

Fr. Sotirios added how "a man came to church and told me, Fr. Sotirios I came to kiss the icon and become Orthodox." Fr. Sotirios mentioned other situations, such as himself. He said, "I was in and out of the hospital for the previous three years, but from September 15 th until today, I haven't returned to the hospital, nor do I take medication."

The Icon was created 16 years ago by Panagiotis Mihalopoulos.

When I asked Fr. Sotirios what is parishioners were saying about it, he said, "They feel it is a blessing from God, words cannot describe it. Others have come from neighbouring communities because it has spread by word of mouth."

The community of the Assumption of the Theotokos consist of 200 families and was established in 1916. Previously it was in the area of Olympia Fields, while it moved to its current location 19 years ago.

When we asked Fr. Sotirios what the priesthood meant for him he said, "Everything, words cannot describe it. My greatest joy is when I stand before the Holy Altar and perform the Divine Liturgy. When I serve the people and transmit to them the Divine Communion." And he added, "for me this sign of the icon is a miracle."

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Having passed half the distance of this holy Fast, let us hasten to its completion in joy; let us anoint our souls with oil for the struggle, that we may be worthy to venerate the holy Passion of Christ our God and to contemplate his Glorious Resurrection.

Vespers at Psalm 140, Tone 7

QUESTIONS TO PONDER ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

- What areas of self am I taking to task this Great Fast?
- If not personally involved, how do I support my parish?
- Do I try to set a good example for the youth of my parish?



PASCHA EGG HUNT

There will be a Egg Hunt for all of our children following the Agape Vespers on May 1st.

If anyone would like to help or donate, please let Fr. Andrew know.

