

Father Kallistos Christides

Father Kallistos Christides was born and raised in Salonika, Greece. In 1940 at the age of 13, he entered Mount Athos where he continued his education in a religious environment. He was ordained a deacon in 1954 in Veria, Greece and in 1956 was ordained a priest and Archimandrite. He served as Abbot of the Monastery of Holy Trinity of Sparmos, Olypos, Greece and pastor of the parish of St. George of Olympiados, Greece.

Father Kallistos immigrated to the United States in 1968 at which time Archbishop Iakovos appointed him pastor of the Greek Orthodox Church in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. In Rio, he led his parish into building their own edifice.

Father Kallistos was appointed to St. Demetrios in 1979 and brought new life to the young parish. The Greek School and the Sunday School were rejuvenated, and the attendance at the Church services reached new heights. Under his guidance, the new St. Demetrios Cultural Center was built, financial arrangements for it were made, and with his encouragement and support the Annual AHEPA Weekend grew and grew and became a major contributor in paying off the mortgage on the Center.

When the Cultural Center was built, there were not enough finances to complete the interior properly. Ahepa helped with the finishing of some rooms, and the Philotohos helped in finishing the kitchen, but there was an unused area on the second floor which had been planned as an apartment. Father Kallistos offered to advance his own money, out of a comparatively small salary he was receiving, to complete the interior of the apartment. Thus, the apartment was completed.

Ill health forced him to curtail some of his activities but never any of the many services found in the Orthodox calendar. He would take a few months leave of absence each year to go to Greece to his beloved monasteries and would return each fall with a renewed vigor.

In 1992 he retired permanently from St. Demetrios and moved to Greece where he still serves a small chapel attached to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

He returned to Wildwood to be present at the Silver Anniversary and the Consecration of his beloved St. Demetrios Church. Hundreds of participants to the AHEPA Weekends always ask about him – as he has made such an impression on all of them.