

## Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew from Anastasiopolis to Lipari

The Transfer of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew took place at the end of the sixth century. His apostolic activity and martyr's end are remembered by the Church on June 11. The Apostle Bartholomew suffered for Christ in Armenian Albanus (now Baku) in the year 71, where his holy relics were. Numerous miracles occurred from the relics of the holy Apostle, and many of the unbelieving were converted to Christ. Under the emperor Anastasius (491-518) the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew were transferred into the newly constructed city of Anastasiopolis (or Dura) and remained there until the end of the sixth century.

When the city of Anastasiopolis was captured by the Persian emperor Chozroes, Christians took up the chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew and fled with it to the shores of the Black Sea. Having overtaken them, pagan priests threw the chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew into the sea. Four other chests containing the relics of the holy Martyrs Papias, Lucian, Gregory and Acacius were also thrown into the sea.

By the power of God the chests did not sink into the depths of the sea, but miraculously floated upon the waves and reached Italy. The chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew came to land at the island of Lipari, and the remaining chests continued their journey and came to land at various places in Italy. The chest with the relics of the Martyr Papias halted at Sicily, the Martyr Lucian at Messina, the Martyr Gregory at Calabria, and the Martyr Acacius at Askalon.

The arrival of the relics of the holy Apostle Bartholomew was revealed to Bishop Agathon of the island of Lipari, who went with clergy to the shores of the sea, took the chest from the waters and solemnly transferred it to church. Myrrh flowed from the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew, healing people of various illnesses. The holy relics remained in the church of the island of Lipari until the middle of the ninth century when the island was captured by pagans. Christian merchants took up the holy relics of the Apostle Bartholomew and transferred them to the city of Beneventum, near Naples, where they were received with great veneration and placed in the main church of the city.

## St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)



**Sunday, Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew

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**Sunday, Aug 25<sup>th</sup>** 9<sup>th</sup> Sun AFTR PNTCST / Tone 8 / Return of the Relics

9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

**Wednesday, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>** *Eve of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*

5:00 pm AA Meeting

6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy

**Friday, Aug 30<sup>th</sup>** *Translation of Relics of Rt. Blv. Prince St. Alexander Nevsky*

6:00 pm Akathist to Saint John the Baptist

**Saturday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>** *The Restoration of the Church of the Theotokos at Neorion*

5:00 pm Great Vespers followed by Confessions & Game Night

**Sunday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>** 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after PNTCST/ Tone 1 / The Church New Year

9:30 am Youth Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

