

## November 9th - Feast Day of St. Nektarios, a modern day saint



Somehow when we think about Saints, we think of people who lived many centuries ago. Saint Nektarios was a Saint who lived and died in the twentieth century. He was born in Selybria, Thrace, a town in present day Turkey, in October of 1846. At the age of 20 Nektarios went to the Island of Chios and entered a monastery. Later, he went to serve under Patriarch Sophronios, of Alexandria, Egypt, who liked Nektarios very much and sent him to study theology at the University of Athens, Greece. After he finished his studies, Patriarch Sophronios appointed him priest and preacher in Cairo, Egypt, and soon thereafter ordained him a Bishop assigned in Cairo. Bishop Nektarios had one success after another. But people do not become Saints without difficulty and many thorns. So it was with Bishop Nektarios, too. Some people who disliked Nektarios made up lies about him to Patriarch Sophronios, who believed the lies and took everything away from Nektarios. Having no diocese to look after any more, Saint Nektarios then went to Greece. Nektarios was invited to preach at different churches in Athens, and when it was realized that he had great wisdom and education, he was asked to become the Dean of a Theological School there in 1894. He started a Convent for Nuns on a small island called Aegina, named after the Holy

Trinity. He retired to this Convent to spend his last years. People flocked to Aegina to worship with Saint Nektarios, to listen to his sermons, and to be healed from different illnesses. Saint Nektarios died on November 9, 1920. Many miracles have been attributed to Saint Nektarios after his death, too. He is considered to be the Patron Saint for people who have cancer, heart trouble, and other sicknesses.

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Saint Nektarios was a very smart and kind man who loved Jesus Christ. He was a Bishop in the country of Egypt. Some people said things about him that were not true and he was asked to leave Egypt. But he always did what God wanted, so he forgave them and loved them still. He died about 60 years ago, when he was an old man, in the country of Greece. Many people still pray to Saint Nektarios to be healed from bad illnesses like cancer.