



Many of us in the Orthodox Christian community have personal experiences, have family members, or know someone who is currently suffering from the tragic effects of addiction. The Metropolitan area of Southern Connecticut has been and continues to be plagued by a variety of addictions, several of which have proven to be deadly.

As parents, relatives or friends of addicted individuals, we are left with two choices. **Ignore it or address it.** There is no “middle-ground” with this destructive behavior. Eventually we are faced with the harsh reality that addiction does not go away, it gets worse and eventually consumes the lives of the addicted and the people who love them. Addiction and substance abuse have the potential to touch everyone’s life.

Who We Are

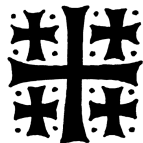
A Support Group For Those Struggling With Or Affected By Substance Abuse

Developed By An Addictions Specialist,
Led By Christ’s Inexhaustible Love

Contact Us

Email: FatherNikolas@prophetelias.org

Reverend Presbyter Nikolas Delaveris is the Presiding Priest of Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Yonkers, NY. He holds a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (2015) and a Certificate of Completion from the Addictions Counselor Education Program, University of Massachusetts, Boston (2015). Over the last six years, he has served as an Addictions/Behavioral Health Counselor to a various Mental Health Clinics, Recovery Homes, and Outpatient Programs in Boston, MA and the DC Metropolitan area. Father Nikolas continues his ministry as a pastoral counselor for individuals and families across the United States.



SAINT ANASTASIA’S
FELLOWSHIP



SAINT ANASTASIA’S FELLOWSHIP

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE
STRUGGLING WITH OR
AFFECTED BY SUBSTANCE ABUSE

*“You are always with me, and all
that I have is yours.” Luke 15:31*



Who is Saint Anastasia the Pharmacologist?

Anastasia was from Rome. She was the daughter of Praepextatus and Fausta and was beautiful in appearance, virtuous and from a wealthy family. Her mother instructed her in the faith of Christ. After her mother's death, she was given in marriage to a pagan named Publius Patricius. He subjected his wife to beatings and would keep her enslaved in the house. She endured these torments for a short time since Publius drowned early in their marriage.

As a young widow, she never remarried and secretly dedicated her time to the poor, those in prisons and served their needs

daily. She would wash their wounds and especially console them during their anguish.

Through her intercessions and prayers, she healed many from the effects of potions, poisons, spells, and other harmful substances. This is how she received the honor of Deliverer of Potions. Her deeds and miracles spread throughout the area and her fame brought about her arrest under Diocletian's persecutions. She was tortured and endured many torments and was eventually put to death by fire in the year 290.

The Fellowship

Through the efforts the Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, and with the blessings Rev. Dr. Harry Pappas and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, a group of concerned and caring individuals have formed an addiction and substance abuse support group. It is called **Saint Anastasia's Fellowship**

This support group will have a trained Pastoral Counselor to aide in the healing and/or recovery from chemical and/or behavioral addiction. Depending on the weekly topic, the group will utilize one of five models of support groups currently used in clinical treatment: Educational Groups, Support Groups, Cognitive-Behavioral Groups, Skill-Development Groups, and Interpersonal Process Groups.

On a theological level, Group therapy is effective because it is a means of the Grace that the Lord promised – *where two or more are gathered in His name, there He is among them (Mat. 18:20).*



Deliverance From Addictions

O Holy Martyr Anastasia, look with compassion upon my distress and, as thou has delivered so many from the cruelty of addiction, so also pray for me that our Lord and Savior, for Whom thou didst witness unto death, may deliver my soul from captivity to Satan. For I am in cruel bondage and suffering because of my weakness and sinfulness. Beseech our merciful Lord that, as He didst lead the Hebrews forth from slavery in Egypt and called His people out of Babylon, as He delivered the youth from the demon, and freed the daughter of the Canaanite woman, and healed the woman taken in adultery and restored the Samaritan woman, that He may also set me free and deliver me from the demon of addiction. I confess that I have fallen into this evil through my own weakness, but have mercy and pray for me, O saint and martyr of God.

+Amen+