

ST. NEKTARIOS' PRESENCE AT HIS TOMB

The testimony of Maria Menounos

My trip to Greece wasn't all about island hopping and fun. I had a mission. I have dreamed about going to Aegina. For those of you who don't know about it, Aegina is a small island in the Gulf of Greece, located just 16 miles southwest of Athens. Saint Nektarios, the patron saint of the island, was a prominent figure in the Greek Orthodox Church in the early 20th century and is known for his healing miracles. Saint Nektarios is considered a patron saint for people who are suffering from diseases, such as cancer, heart trouble, joint pain, epilepsy, arthritis and more. Ever since my mom and I were diagnosed with brain tumors, friends would tell us they were going there to pray for us. We attended St. Nektarios church in California but going to his church in Greece was always the dream. I wanted to say thank you for all the miracles and healings we have been blessed with. It was our first stop on the trip.

They say the faithful can hear St. Nektarios in the tomb. As soon as I kneeled down I heard knocking. Faint knocking noises. I asked Joanna our friend guiding us if that was him and she said yes. But I couldn't believe it. I stayed ear to the tomb for a long time. I prayed to St. Nektarios and said please make it undeniable. I don't want to leave here unsure if I heard you. As I was praying for the people in my life with cancer I heard a massive bang and started screaming I hear him! It was definitely undeniable. I sobbed with joy. It was so emotional as I feel I have such a connection with him and this just made me feel even more grateful for our connection. I will never forget this incredibly inspiring moment. I also got to sit on his bed where he used to live and got the chills. Everyone in our group was moved to tears on this visit. If you ever go to Greece, add this to your trip. St. Nektarios helps so many and has granted so many miracles. I like to say: believe in the unbelievable because nothing is too far from possible when you believe in St. Nektarios.