



## **EPISODE SUMMARIES**

### **SAINT PAISIOS**

#### **Episode 1.**

##### **Birth – Expulsion from Cappadocia**

On July 25, 1924, St. Paisios is born, in Farasa, Cappadocia. A few days later, due to the population exchange, they leave their village and travel to Greece. Before they leave, Father Arsenios, later Saint Arsenios, baptizes him and gives him his name. His father Prodromos Eznepidis, together with St. Arsenios, are the leaders of the village and support the villagers in these difficult times.

#### **Episode 2.**

##### **Welcoming**

The expelled inhabitants of Farasa, after many hardships and difficulties, reach the port of Piraeus. Expecting a warm welcome from the motherland, they taken aback as they are treated like refugees and second-class citizens. They settle temporarily in a camp in Keratsini until their departure for Corfu.

#### **Episode 3.**

##### **The death of St. Arsenios**

They arrive in Corfu and a few days later - as he had foretold – their spiritual father St. Arsenios passes away. The pain is much to bear for everyone and especially for the president of the village, Prodromos Eznepidis. He is now alone without the guidance of his spiritual Father.

## **Episode 4.**

### **Orphans**

After the death of Saint Arsenios, tensions arise between the villages, due to their prolonged stay in the castle of Corfu. After 8 months they arrive in Plataria of Thesprotia. The tension peaks when they are forced to live in miserable conditions, in shacks and tents, all winter. Many of them leave for different parts of Greece and the Eznepidis family ends up together with 15 other families in Konitsa in July 1927.

## **Episode 5.**

### **Childhood years**

Ez nepidis family, through many hardships and deprivations, try to survive in their new homeland, keeping their fervent faith in God as a precious treasure. Eulogia raises and instills in the young Arsenios a strong love for the traditions of the church. Growing up, his inclination towards spirituality and his love for Christ are strongly visible. He is captivated by the lives of the Saints and tries to transmit this love to his friends.

## **Episode 6.**

### **Doubt and the Vision of Christ**

Arsenios frequents caves and the small church of St. Barbara, where he reads, sings and prays. His father Prodromos and his brother Raphael are worried, but he has the support of his mother Eulogia. When he finishes primary school, he starts working as a carpenter to financially support his family. At the age of 15, his cousin instills doubt into his heart, telling him that Christ is not God, but a good man. He takes refuge in the small church of St. Barbara where he prays for hours begging Christ to give him a sign. Finally, Christ himself appears to him. This strengthens him in faith and he is now sure of the path he must follow.

## **Episode 7.**

### **Greek-Italian war, occupation and civil war**

With the beginning of the Greek-Italian war and the German occupation that followed, the Eznepidis family goes through difficult times, as do all the people of Greece. Despite this, and their own poor state, the Eznepidis family support many other poor families from Konitsa and other villages in the region. After the liberation of Greece, Arsenios joined the army where he served as a radio operator during the Greek civil war.

## **Episode 8**

### **Army and Mount Athos**

His presence in the army will be remembered by his fellow soldiers for the self-sacrifice he demonstrated on so many occasions. When he was dismissed from the army he immediately left for Mount Athos making a first trip to see where he could live as a monk. He returns to Konitsa at his father's request and helps his sister.

## **Episode 9**

### **The beginning of his monastic life**

He works hard for 3 years and helps his sister. Released from any obligations, he leaves once and for all for Mount Athos. He arrives at the monastery of Esfigmenou where he serves as a novice monk. He then finds himself in the Filotheou monastery where he become a monk receiving the small schema and the name Paisios.