

STROGANOV MINYEIAS

AUGUST

Side A



Row 1

August 1: The Seven Maccabees with their Mother Solomonica and teacher Eleazar were Hebrews living in the 2nd century BCE. Their story is told in the Apocryphal Second Book of Maccabees. King Antiochus IV had outlawed many Jewish customs and turned the Temple into a Pagan shrine. Eleazar and his seven young disciples were arrested and martyred for refusing to abandon their faith and traditions. Solomonica, mother to the seven Maccabee brothers, saw each of her sons punished and killed in one day.

August 1: The Feast of the Procession of the True Cross commemorates the Byzantine tradition of parading the Cross through Constantinople city streets to bless the city. In Russia this feast is combined with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus which is said to have taken place on August 1, 988.

August 2: The life of Saint Stephen the Archdeacon is celebrated on December 27. August 2 marks the day his relics were moved from Jerusalem to Constantinople. Saint Stephen was one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles and was the first Christian martyr. He was secretly buried and his relics remained hidden until the year 415 when they were taken to Jerusalem. They were moved again in 428 to a church built in Constantinople and dedicated to Saint Stephen.

August 2: Saint Basil of Moscow lived during the 15th and 16th centuries and practiced an extreme form of asceticism called Holy Fool or Fool for Christ. He walked through the city streets barefoot and dressed in rags. He would chastise those he deemed to be sinful and would preach repentance. He is remembered as a wonderworker and is believed to have been able to predict the future.

August 3: Saints Isaac, Dalmatios, and Faustus were ascetic monks at the Dalmatian Monastery in Constantinople. Saint Isaac opposed the Emperor Valens during the Arian controversy and was imprisoned until the Emperor Theodosius the Great took the throne and released him. Isaac attended the Second Ecumenical Council in 381 and was then made the first igumen (leader) of a new Monastery which was later named Dalmatian. Dalmatios came to the monastery with his son Faustus and were tonsured by Saint Isaac. Dalmatios was chosen to succeed Isaac as igumen and also to attend the 3rd Ecumenical Council. Saint Faustus was chosen to succeed his father as igumen. No other details of his life are recorded.

August 3: Saint Anthony the Roman was born to a wealthy family in the 11th century. He became a monk and distributed part of his inheritance to the poor. The rest was put inside of a barrel and cast into the sea. According to tradition, Anthony lived on a large rock that was washed out to sea and miraculously floated to Novgorod where he found the barrel containing a part of his inheritance. He used the money to purchase land and establish a monastery dedicated to the Mother of God.



Row 2

August 4: The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus were seven young men from the 3rd century named Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Esacustodianus and Antoninus. When the emperor commanded all citizens to make pagan sacrifices they hid together in a cave, occasionally sending the youngest, Iamblicus, out in disguise to buy supplies. Their cave was blocked with rocks by soldiers and a Christian placed a plaque with their names and story. The seven fell into a miraculous sleep and did not perish for 200 years. When they awoke they were not aware of the passage of time. Iamblicus went out to find that Christians spoke openly on the streets and that several churches had been built. He was arrested when he attempted to buy bread with his ancient coins but was quickly released when the authorities realized who he was. The seven were visited by many including the emperor but they soon lay back down and fell asleep. Traditionally August 4 is the anniversary of the day they first fell asleep and a second feast day on October 22 is the anniversary of the day they awoke.

August 4: Saint Eleutherius of Constantinople was beheaded under the orders of Maximian Hercules (284-305) for practicing Christianity. Eleutherius had built a church on his estate and refused to offer sacrifices at the Pagan Temple when ordered to do so.

August 4: Saint Evdokia of Persia was a 4th century Christian who was taken prisoner by the Emperor Sapor. She preached Christianity to her fellow prisoners and captors and was subsequently beheaded.

August 4: Saint Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow is officially celebrated on August 24 when his relics were moved to the Dormition Cathedral in 1479. There was once an August 4 feast day to honor the appearance of the relics to the Tsaritsa Anastasia (1547-1584), at which time Saint Peter reportedly appeared to the wife of Ivan the Terrible and ordered his grave be sealed. The August 4 date is no longer celebrated.

August 5: Saint Eusignius of Antioch was a Christian soldier in the Roman army during the reigns of Emperors Diocletian, Hercules, Constantius Cholors, and Constantine the Great. He retired in peace until 362, when he was beheaded during Emperor Julian's religious reformations and the restoration of Hellenic Polytheism as the state religion.

August 6: The Transfiguration celebrates the Biblical story of Peter, James, and John going with Jesus to pray on top of a mountain. Christ transformed before his disciples and was seen in his spiritual form with Elijah and Moses at his sides. The Apostles were awestruck and their accounts of the miracle are recorded in the Gospels of Matthew (17:1), Mark (9:2), and Luke (9:28).



Row 3

August 7: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Saint Dometius and black robes indicate that he practiced asceticism. On August 7th two separate ascetic monks by the name of Dometius are celebrated. Saint Dometius of Philotheou, Mount Athos, was a 16th century monk who took a vow of silence. Saint Dometius of Persia was a 4th century monk who was killed with his disciples under the orders of Emperor Julian the Apostate.

August 8: Saint Emilian the Confessor, Bishop of Cyzicus, was brought to court during the reign of the iconoclast Leo the Armenian, and told to stop venerating icons. Emilian told the emperor that the church, rather than the emperor, would make such spiritual decisions. He was imprisoned in 815 where he later died.

August 8: Saint Gregory of Sinai was an iconographer who was believed to have painted many wonder-working icons. Scholars believe that he traveled from Constantinople to Kiev to paint icons in the Church of the monastery dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God.

August 8: The Icon of the Mother of God Tolgskaya. In 1314, the Tolga Mother of God icon appeared to the hierarch Prochurus. He came upon it near Yaroslavl, on the banks of the Volga River when he followed a beacon of light. Miraculously, a bridge appeared, leading him to the glowing icon hanging in the air. Prochurus later brought his assistants to the same spot, where they saw the miraculous icon as well. In one day, they cleared the forest and built a church dedicated to the Mother of God.

August 8: Saints Zosimas and Savvaty. Traditionally, August 8 commemorates the transfer of the relics of Saints Zosima and Savvaty to the chapel of the Transfiguration cathedral. The saints' feasts are celebrated on April 17 and September 27, respectively. They are shown here holding the Solovetsky monastery, which they founded.

August 9: Saint Matthias was one of the Apostles of the Seventy. Later, after the Ascension of Christ, Matthias was chosen to replace Judas as one of the Twelve Apostles. He traveled and preached with Apostle Andrew. Matthias was imprisoned and suffered many hardships, and was ultimately brought by high priest Ananias before the council of Jerusalem, which ordered him to be executed. He died in the year 63.

August 10: Saint Laurence Archdeacon of Rome was a 3rd century deacon who served Pope Sixtus, Bishop of Rome, during the reign of Emperor Valerian (253-259). When Pope Sixtus was arrested he ordered Saint Laurence to distribute his treasury to the poor. Soldiers overheard Laurence saying the word treasure and so arrested and tortured him in an attempt to gain access to what they believed was a hidden fortune. Laurence agreed to produce the "vessels" holding the treasure and so the governor had him released. The deacon brought forth the many poor who had been fed and clothed from the treasury, which had been completely depleted. Saint Laurence was rearrested and martyred.

August 11: Saint Euplus Archdeacon of Catania lived during the reigns of emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311) in Sicily. He preached throughout the region, always traveling with the Gospel. Euplus was jailed for being a Christian, and was repeatedly tortured. In one miracle associated with the saint, a spring of water appeared in the prison in answer to Euplus's prayers.

August 12: Saint Anicetus and his nephew the Saint Photius were from Nicomedia. They spoke out against the emperor Diocletian, who ordered that they be tortured. Anicetus and Photius both remained unharmed during repeated execution attempts and were imprisoned. They were martyred in the year 305.

August 13: Saint Maximus the Confessor was born around 580 into a Christian family. He was well educated, and entered government service under Emperor Heraclius. Disillusioned by government corruption, he left and became a monk. He was known for his fight against Monothelism, or the belief that Jesus Christ has human and divine natures, but only one will (versus Christology, which teaches that Jesus has two natures and two corresponding wills). Maximus was tormented and exiled. After he died in 662, healings were said to have occurred at his tomb. According to tradition, Maximus' feast day is celebrated on January 21, while August 13 commemorates the translation of his relics.

August 13: Uncovering the Relics of Saint Maximus of Moscow. Little is known about the life of Maximus, who lived as a Holy Fool, wearing little clothing despite the harsh elements. He died in 1434 and his remains, buried at the church of Saints Boris and Gleb, were said to work miracles. After this church was destroyed, another church was built in its place and named for Saint Maximus. He is remembered as a wonderworker and his relics, which were uncovered in 1547, were said to have been incorrupt and to have caused many healings.



Row 4

August 14: The Prophet Micah was one of the Twelve Minor Prophets who began his service around 778 BCE. His prophecies were primarily related to the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. Micah is cited in the Gospel of Matthew for his prophesy that the Son of God would be born in Bethlehem.

August 14: Saint Theodosius of the Kiev Far Caves, and the transfer of his relics. Theodosius was a strict ascetic even as a child. When he was a young man, he left home for the Kiev Caves monastery, where he became a monk. He was known among the brothers for working the hardest and living the most ascetic life. He eventually became igumen, or head, of the monastery. He died peacefully in 1074, and his relics were said to have been uncorrupt when they were found many years later. Traditionally he is celebrated on September 28 and the transfer of his relics is commemorated on August 14.

August 15: The Dormition of the Mother of God. This feast marks the “falling asleep” of Mary, the Mother of God. At the time of her Dormition, which Archangel Gabriel had announced to her, Christ appeared to the Mother of God in a blaze of divine light. The icon shows Christ holding what appears to be a child, representing the soul of the Theotokos. On the left, Saint Peter holds a censer of incense, and Saint Paul appears on the right. The priest Athonios appears in front; his hands were cut off by an angel when he tried to tip over the funeral bier.

August 16: The Image (of Christ) Not Made By Hands. When Jesus was preaching, King Abgar of Edessa, who suffered from leprosy, heard of His miracles. Abgar sent his court painter Ananias to paint an image of Jesus, in hopes that it would heal him. Ananias could not get close enough, but Jesus saw him and asked for a water and cloth. He washed His face, and its imprint was transferred to the cloth. Abgar was healed when he pressed the cloth to his face. August 16 marks the date in 944 when the image was moved from Edessa to Constantinople.

August 16: Saint Diomedes was a physician who is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a healer. Emperor Diocletian ordered soldiers to kill Diomedes, but when they arrived he had already died. They beheaded him so they would be able to prove he was dead, but upon doing so the soldiers were blinded. Their sight was restored when they returned the head to the body.

August 16: Saint Joachim lived as a hermit in Bulgaria in the 11th century. Little else is known about his life.

Side B



Row 1

August 17: Saint Myron of Cyzicus was a 3rd century Priest who was martyred during the reign of the Emperor Decius (249-251). He was arrested while celebrating the Divine Liturgy and subjected to many punishments before he was beheaded.

August 18: Saints Florus and Laurus were twin brothers who lived in Byzantium in the 2nd century. They were trained as stonemasons and were hired to build a temple but gave their salaries to the poor. The son of a local priest was hurt by a stone from the temple. The brothers were said to have cured the boy after

he converted to Christianity. Florus and Laurus gathered many Christians in the temple to pray. In punishment, the local authorities ordered 300 Christians to be burned to death. Florus and Laurus were also executed. Their remains were said to be incorrupt when they were uncovered many years later.

August 19: Saint Andrew Stratelates (and those with him) was a military commander in the Roman army during the reign of Maximian. Entreating the help of the Savior, Andrew's small group of soldiers were victorious over the large Persian army. Governor Antiochus ordered that the saint and his soldiers be tortured and imprisoned. Later, fearing a rebellion, Antiochus released them but ordered that they be killed under another pretext. Andrew and his men were baptized. Before the group was executed, Saint Andrew asked God to create a healing spring at the place where they died. This spring appeared after the saint and his men died, and was said to have healed many people.

August 19: Saint Pitirim, Bishop of Perm was a 15th century monk who worked to defend Christian settlements from raiders. He rallied Novgorod landowners to protect the smaller villages to capture Asyka, leader of the raiding Voguli peoples. A peace treaty was established and Asyka was released, but murdered Saint Pitirim in 1465.

August 20: The Prophet Samuel was descended from the Tribe of Levi and was the last of the Judges of Israel. At age 12, he had a vision that God would punish the family of High Priest Eli; this prophesy came true, and Samuel became the judge of Israel after Eli's death. Samuel appointed Saul as king but later denounced him before appointing David. Samuel died at a very old age.

August 21: Saint Thaddeus was an Apostle of the Seventy, born in Edessa. He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Thaddeus converted many people to Christianity, in Edessa (including King Abgar) and in Beirut, where he founded a church. He died in Beirut in the year 44.

August 21: Unknown Saint. This martyr is labeled as Saint Callinicus and is dressed in armor, typical for soldier or warrior saints. There are several martyrs by the name of Callinicus but none is celebrated on August 21.

August 21: Saint Bassa and her three sons were Christians who lived in early 4th century Macedonia. Her husband was a pagan priest, who denounced his wife and sons for their beliefs. The three boys were executed, and Saint Bassa was imprisoned. She endured many tortures. When she was thrown into the sea, a ship appeared with three radiant men (perhaps her late sons), who rescued her. She was eventually beheaded, and a church was built in her honor around 450.

August 21: Saint Abraham of Smolensk was born in the 12th century, the only boy in a family of 13 children. After his parents' death, Abraham became a monk. He copied books and had access to the Prince's large library. After thirty years at the monastery, Abraham became presbyter (priest). He was then moved to another monastery, where he painted icons for the monastery church. Abraham was tried for heresy and reading forbidden books, and as a result was stripped of the title of priest and returned to his original monastery. The bishop Saint Ignatius pardoned Abramius after a miracle was attributed to him. Saint Ignatius built a new monastery and appointed Saint Abramius to lead it.

August 21: Saint Ephraim of Smolensk was a disciple of the Venerable Abraham of Smolensk, and compiler of Abraham's Life. Because Abraham was well read, the Life provides details about education in Russia during that period.



Row 2

August 22: Saint Agathonicus (and those with him) lived in Nicomedia, where they preached about Christ. They were tortured and killed under the reign of Maximian (284-305).

August 23: Saint Lupus was a slave of Saint Demetrius and present at his death. Saint Lupus took his master's clothing, ring, and name, and performed miracles using Demetrius's persona. He was eventually tortured and beheaded for his Christian beliefs.

August 23: Unknown Saint. This bishop is labeled as Saint Lupas, like the saint pictured next to him who is a martyr. There are no other known saints by that name celebrated on August 23 and no known saint by that name who was a bishop.

August 23: Saint Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, was born in 130. He was well educated, and was a follower of St. Polycarp, who ordained him. Polycarp was a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. In 178, Irenaeus became bishop of what is now Lyons, France. He is known for his treatise Five Books against Heresy.

August 23: Saint Callinicus was the patriarch of Constantinople in the late 7th century and the early 8th century. He was known for refusing to condone the destruction of a church to make way for Justinian II's palace.

August 24: Saint Eutychus was a disciple of Apostle John the Theologian and Apostle Paul; he was not one of the Apostles but his close association with the two elder apostles gives him that designation. He lived in the late 1st and early 2nd century in Sebastea. He suffered and was martyred for his Christian faith.

August 24: The transfer of the Relics of Saint Peter, Metropolitan of Russia. Saint Peter Metropolitan of Russia died on December 21, 1326. Because his relics were transferred twice, the feast day commemorating this event was first celebrated on July 1, before it was moved to August 24.



Row 3

August 25: Saints Titus and Bartholomew. Titus was an Apostle of the Seventy and Bishop of Crete. He was well educated in Hellenic subjects and in science. At age 20, he heard the voice of God in a dream, which led him to read the teachings of the prophets. Titus was sent to Palestine, where he heard Jesus preach, and he witnessed his death and resurrection. Titus was then baptized and traveled as a disciple to Saint Paul. Titus died peacefully at an old age. While Apostle Bartholomew is shown here, it is in fact the return of his relics that is commemorated on this day; his feast day is June 11.

August 26: Saints Adrian and Natalia were husband and wife who lived in Nicomedia in the early 4th century during the time of Emperor Maximian. Adrian witnessed many Christians being tortured, and, compelled by the strength of their faith, he decided to join them. Saint Natalia was secretly a Christian, so together they were imprisoned, tried, tortured and executed for their Christian beliefs.

August 26: The Icon of the Mother of God of Vladimirskaya. According to tradition, Saint Luke the Evangelist painted the first Vladimir icon of the Mother of God. In the early 12th century, the icon was sent from Constantinople to Rus; several years later, it was transferred to the Dormition cathedral in Vladimir. In the late 14th century, the icon was brought to Moscow. August 26 commemorates the last journey, when the icon is believed to have worked a miracle that protected Russia from the conqueror Tamerlane.

August 27: Saint Pimen the Great was born in the 4th century in Egypt. He and his two brothers became monks. He was a spiritual guide that other monks turned to for instruction. Pimen was also known for having great humility and for his strict fasting. He died at age 110.

August 28: Saint Moses the Ethiopian lived in Egypt in the 4th century. He committed many sins and was known as an evil person who associated with a group of robbers. Moses eventually repented, and went to a monastery and sought refuge there. For many years, he toiled and he sought the counsel of the Abbott in order to repent fully for his sins. He was eventually ordained a deacon and later a priest. He was killed by robbers along with seven monks in the year 400.

August 28: Saint Sava of Krypets became a monk in Pskov, but then withdrew to a cave in the wilderness in Krypetsk to live as a hermit. He built a monastery in the wilderness, though he refused to be its igumen, or abbot. He was said to have healed the wife of the Prince of Pskov, and to have protected the monastery even after his death.



Row 4

August 29: The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist. After he baptized Jesus, Saint John was imprisoned for expressing disapproval of Herod for divorcing his wife and taking his brother's wife (Herodias) instead. At a feast attended by many important guests, Herodias's daughter Salome danced and charmed Herod. He offered her anything she wanted, and her mother told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. This was done, and according to tradition, Herod, Herodias, and Salome were all later punished by God for Saint John's death. Orthodox believers traditionally fast on this feast day.

August 30: The Holy Patriarchs of Constantinople Alexander, John, and Paul. Saint Alexander was born around 240. He succeeded Metrophanes as Bishop and attended the Council at Nicea. Alexander died in 340. Saint John the Faster, who was patriarch from 582-595, is known for compiling the Penitential Nomocanon, or rules for priests about penances. He is also commemorated on September 2. Saint Paul the New was patriarch from 780 to 784 during the reign of iconoclast Emperor Leo IV iconoclast period. After failing to reinstate the veneration of icons, he left his post and entered a monastery. He died in 804.

August 30: Unknown Saint. This monk is labeled as Saint Euphronius, but according to Museum sources there is no saint by that name in the Orthodox Faith.

August 30: Unknown Saint. This monk is labeled as Saint Alexander Sorsky. There are several saints by the name of Alexander celebrated on August 30, but it is unclear if this is meant to be one of them.

August 30: Unknown Saint. This martyr is labeled as Saint Fianks, but according to Museum sources there is no saint by that name in the Orthodox Faith.

August 31: The deposition of the belt of the **Mother of God in Chalkoprateia.** The Mother of God had given her belt to Apostle Thomas, and it had been kept in Jerusalem after the Dormition. It was brought to Constantinople in the 5th century. In the late 9th century, according to tradition, the wife of Emperor Leo was miraculously healed when the belt was placed upon her.