

# STROGANOV MINYEIAS

## DECEMBER

### Side 1



### Row 1

**December 1: Prophet Nahum**, whose name means “God consoles,” was from the village of Elkosh. He lived during the 7th century BCE and was the seventh of Twelve Minor Prophets. Nahum prophesized God’s punishment of wicked people and foretold the restoration of Israel. He died at the age of forty-five and is invoked for people with mental disorders.

**December 2: Prophet Habakkuk** was the eighth of the Twelve Minor Prophets. He foresaw the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the Babylonian Captivity and the later return of their captives to their native land. During the war with the Babylonians, he moved to Arabia where he met an angel of the Lord. His relics were found during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger.

**December 2: Saint Filaret the Kind** lived during the 8th century. He gave away most of his money and possessions to the poor, claiming he had a treasure that he kept hidden from other family members. His wife, infuriated at his generosity, gained the attention of Emperor Constantine. Constantine, who was looking for a wife, came to their home for a feast and to meet Saint Filaret’s daughters and granddaughters. At the feast, Constantine selected one of Filaret’s granddaughters as his bride and rewarded Filaret with gold, silver and copper coins. Saint Filaret gave the coins to the poor. He never wore fine clothing, and would not accept any imperial rank for his actions. He lived to the age of ninety.

**December 3: Prophet Zephaniah** was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. He lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped eliminate idol worship. Zephaniah prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions.

**December 3: Saint Sabas of Zvenigorod** enjoyed solitude and avoiding interacting with others. He lived a simplistic ascetic life, eating plants, wearing coarse clothing, and sleeping on the ground. He died on December 3, 1406. The feast day of Saint Sabas was established at the Moscow Council of 1547.

**December 3: Saint Theodulus the Stylite** lived during the 4th century. He was an aristocrat and the commander of the emperor’s bodyguards. He resigned his position because he did not want to be distracted by worldly cares. After the death of his wife, Theodulus’s belongings were donated to the poor and he became a monk. He travelled to Edessa and lived atop a pillar for thirty years, eating only the body and blood of Christ and the antidoron, the bread given after the Liturgy. He died on the pillar around 440.

**December 4: Saint Barbara** was the only child of her pagan parents, who built a tower for her to live in so that she would never be influenced towards Christ. Barbara did not agree with pagan beliefs, so she embarked on a quest to find the true Creator of the world. After Barbara's father allowed her to leave the tower, she met some Christian maidens who taught her about the Creator of the world, the Trinity, and the Divine Logos. A priest, dressed as a merchant, then met her in Heliopolis and baptized her. During this time, a bathhouse was being built at Barbara's home; she asked for three windows to be installed instead of the two planned in order to form a Trinity of light. This request angered her father, who beat, tortured, and eventually beheaded her. Soon after, her father was struck by lightning and killed. Saint Barbara's relics now reside at Saint Vladimir cathedral.

**December 4: Saint John of Damascus** was born in 680. He wrote three treatises entitled "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." These treatises enraged the emperor but since Saint John was not Byzantine, the emperor could not lock imprison or execute him. As a result, the emperor tried to slander him by forging unfavorable letters to the emperor. Saracen Caliph then ordered Saint John be removed from his post, have his right hand cut off, and be led through the city in chains. When Saint John received his hand that same night, he placed it back on his wrist and prayed to the Mother of God; miraculously his hand reattached to his wrist with only a small red mark that showed where it had been cut. After that miracle, icons depicting the Mother of God sometimes contained a silver model of his hand which became known as "Of Three Hands." He died in about the year 780, when he was over 100 years old.

**December 5: Saint Sabas the Sanctified** was born in the 5th century and at the age of seventeen, he received monastic tonsure and attained such perfection in fasting and prayer that it is said he was given the gift of wonderworking. For the following thirteen years, he spent his weeks in a cave, but on Saturdays he would go to a monastery for the divine services and to eat with the Brothers. Saint Sabas continued living in the cave for the next five years, where he struggled, but eventually travelled to another monastery for their services. He founded some monasteries in his lifetime and caused many miracles until his death in 532.

**December 5: Saint Gurias Archbishop of Kazan** was the first archbishop of the Kazan diocese, established in 1555. He was accused of indecencies with the prince's wife and locked in a dungeon for two years. This weakened his health but it also strengthened his religious passions. Following his imprisonment, Saint Gurias was chosen as the head of the Saint Joseph Monastery in 1543 and administered it for nine years. In his eight years as bishop at Tver, four monasteries were organized and several city churches, including the Annunciation cathedral, were built. He died in 1563 following two years of illness. He was buried in the Savior-Transfiguration Monastery.

**December 6: Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker**, Archbishop of Myra, was vowed by his parents to be dedicated to God. It is said that on the day he was born, he stood without any assistance on his feet for three hours straight in honor of the Trinity. Throughout his life he is believed to have performed many miracles. Despite his great gentleness of spirit, he was a zealot and warrior of the Church, having made rounds of pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, and destroyed idols and pagan temples. In the year 325, Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. He is the patron saint of travelers, and he is prayed to for deliverance from floods, poverty, or misfortune.



## Row 2

**December 7: Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan**, was born in the year 340. At the age of thirty, he was appointed to the position of governor of the districts of Laguria. Several years later, the Arian Bishop of Mediolanum died. The people convinced the emperor to appoint Ambrose, resulting in Ambrose's baptism and passing through all ranks of the church in seven days before being consecrated as Bishop on December 7, 374. He died on the night of Holy Pascha.

**December 7: Saint Anthony of Siya** was born in about 1477. He devoted himself to monasticism and distributed his goods to the poor. In the year 1520, he built a chapel on the island of Pachomiev. As this chapel was being built, an anonymous man contributed means of subsistence to the workers, offering money for their troubles. Saint Anthony died in the year 1556.

**December 8: Saint Patapius of Thebes**, upon reaching a mature age, scorned the vanities of the world and became known for his ascetic deeds. Eventually, as people began to come to him for advice, Saint Patapius moved to Constantinople to dwell in silence. He obtained a cell at the city wall, and upon crowds of the sick gathering around him, he performed numerous miracles and healed many of these people. The saint was buried in the church of Saint John the Baptist.

**December 9: The Conception of the Mother of God.** Saints Anna and Joachim were childless for twenty years. Through the prayer of both spouses, an angel appeared to them and explained that they would be the parents of a daughter who would bring blessings to the entire human race by becoming the Mother of God. Since ancient times, this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

**December 9: Unknown monk.** This figure has been translated as Saint Cornelius of Komel. According to Museum sources he is celebrated on May 19. There are several other saints with the Name of Cornelius, but none are celebrated on December 9.

**December 10: Saints Menas, Hermogenes, and Eustraphus.** Saint Menas was ordered to travel to Alexandria to moderate riots that had begun between Christians and pagans. Upon his arrival, Saint Menas preached the Christian faith to the rioters and started converting pagans. Emperor Maximian heard of this and sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saints on trial and then to rid the city of Christians. Upon witnessing Saint Menas sustaining torture, and then heal miraculously afterwards, Hermogenes came to believe in Christ. After hearing of the conversion of Saint Hermogenes to Christ, Emperor Maximian traveled to Alexandria to address the riots himself. He ordered that the two be tortured further in front of a crowd. One of the spectators, Saint Eustraphes, stood and confessed his faith in Christ for all to hear. Maximian was furious and stabbed Eustraphes to death with a sword. Then he ordered both Menas and Hermogenes to be beheaded. The relics of the saints were cast into the sea in an iron chest.



### Row 3

**December 11: The Venerable Saint Daniel the Stylite** was born to his long-childless mother as a result of her prayers. He was without a name for the first five years of his life. His parents decided that since the boy was born through the will of God that his name should be given the same way. He was taken to a monastery and asked to take one service book and unroll it at random. The name that appeared was the Prophet Daniel, thus giving him his name. At the age of twelve, Daniel returned to the same monastery by himself and stayed there until a vision came to him. He then moved to the wilderness and lived atop a pillar for thirty-three years. He died at eighty years of age.

**December 11: The Venerable Luke the Stylite** was a soldier under the Byzantine emperor Constantine VII. After he fought in a war with Bulgaria in 917, he became a monk, and then was ordained as a presbyter. Seeking a higher degree from God, he chained himself and climbed atop a pillar, where he stayed for three years. He left that pillar and found another pillar in Chalcedon, where he then stayed for forty five more years. He died in about 980.

**December 12: Saint Spyridon Bishop of Tremithus** was born near the end of the 3rd century in Cyprus. He participated in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea in 325 and is said to have converted many away from the Arian movement. Saint Spyridon became known as a miracle worker. It is said that through the prayer of the saint, the dead were awakened, the elements of nature were tamed, and the pagan idols smashed. His life is also celebrated on Cheesefare Saturday.

**December 13: Saints Eustratius, Auxentius, Mardarius, Eugene, and Orestes**, were five Christians martyred under the Emperor Diocletian (284-305) in Sebaste, Armenia. Saint Eustratius, a noble military commander, witnessed the dedication of the Christians being tortured. He was secretly Christian, and was inspired to confess his faith, he too was subjected to torture and execution. Saint Auxentius, a presbyter (leader) of the Arabian Church, was among the first Christians imprisoned and martyred under the ruling of Diocletian. Saint Mardarius confessed his faith in Christ and was arrested, tortured and died a short time thereafter. Saint Eugene had his tongue, feet, and hands removed before he was beheaded. Saint Orestes confessed his faith and was sentenced to be laid atop a heated iron bed, encouraged by Saint Eustratius laid upon the bed, where he died.

**December 13: Saint Arsenius of Latros** joined the Cibyrta military and encountered a storm at sea, of which he was the only survivor. After that event, he became a monk and practiced self-discipline by fasting and vigils and hardships. He then moved to Mount Latros, where he lived in a monastery alone and, for six days a week, he would neither eat nor speak with anyone. At one point, Saint Arsenius was visited and fed by an angel. He continued to work miracles even after his death.



## Row 4

**December 14: Saints Thyrsus and Leucius of Apollonia** were martyred during the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251). Saint Thyrsus was sentenced to cruel tortures after refusing to offer sacrifice to idols. He was then taken to a temple where he shattered a statue of Apollo. Because of this, the prefect ordered more severe punishments and torments, all of which Thyrsus survived. He died peacefully after making the sign of the cross. Saint Leucius condemned the prefect Cumbricius for his unjust treatment towards Christians. Leucius was tortured and eventually beheaded.

**December 14: Saints Philemon and Apollonius of Alexandria** were martyred during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian (284-305). The two were compelled with many others to offer sacrifices to pagan Gods or else face martyrdom. Saint Apollonius was afraid and asked Philemon to change clothes and to offer a sacrifice in his place. He did not know that Philemon was a secret Christian until he confessed his faith to the soldiers. Apollonius was inspired to join Philemon and the two were executed on March 16, 286.

**December 14: Saint Arianus of Alexandria** was a prefect when saints Apollonius and Philemon were executed. One of the arrows shot at Philemon's body hit Arianus's eye. The eye was healed when Arianus applied the dirt from Philemon's grave. He repented his faith and converted to the Christian faith. He was sentenced to death for his beliefs.

**December 14: Saint Callinicus** was a pagan priest until he witnessed the martyrdom of Saint Thyrsus (also celebrated on December 14), which changed his beliefs. He converted to Christ and boldly confessed it to the pagans. He was beheaded for his beliefs.

**December 15: Saint Eleutherius** was raised in Christian piety and by the age of twenty, had been elevated to bishop of Illyria. During the reign of Emperor Hadrian, the saint was tortured for preaching Christianity and then was beheaded in the early 2nd century.

**December 15: Saint Paul of Latros** was educated at the monastery of Saint Stephen. Upon the death of his mother, Saint Paul withdrew himself and began his life in a cave. For his deeds, he gained the gift of wonderworking. He travelled twice to the island of Samos, where he established a monastery and restored three other monasteries that had been destroyed. He died in 955.

**December 15: Saint Stephen Archbishop of Sourozh** practiced asceticism by living in a cave for thirty years. He was approached by Patriarch Germanus, who consecrated him the bishop of Surrentium. Saint Stephen opposed the iconoclasm of the emperor in the eighth century and was thrown in prison as a result. After the death of the emperor, he was released and returned to preaching in Surrentium, where his life ended.

**December 16: Prophet Haggai** was the tenth of the Twelve Minor Prophets. He was alive and prophesized prior to 500 BCE. He persuaded the Jews to build the Second Temple at Jerusalem and proclaimed that the Messiah would appear in this Temple.

**December 16: Saints Theophano**, Empress was thrown in prison with her husband, Emperor Leo VI, for three years. After serving her sentence, she spent her life fasting and praying, struggling for her salvation. She renounced all things worldly and forbade her husband from dedicating a church he built for her. She died in about the year 893.

**December 16: Saint Nicholas II**, Patriarch of Constantinople became the bishop of Constantinople after having been bishop of Russia. He served as the patriarch during the reign of Basil II, from about 976 to 1025.

## Side B



## Row 1

**December 17: Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias, and Mishael.** Daniel was the fourth of the Major Prophets. He was led into Babylonian captivity with three other youths: Ananias, Azarias, and Mishael, in about 600 BCE. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had a dream which none of his wise men could interpret. He then asked Daniel and he interpreted it immediately, stating he had the vision of the dream. As a result, he was made ruler of the province of Babylon. At that same time, the king ordered a solid gold statue be made of himself so that the people could bow to it. The three youths Ananias, Azarias, and Mishael refused to bow and were cast into a fiery furnace, but all were unharmed and flames shot out of the furnace killing those who stood nearby. The Angel of the Lord, later understood to be Christ, came to the youths and cooled the flames.

**December 17: Sunday of the Holy Forefathers** (the Second Sunday before the Nativity) and the Sunday of the Fathers (the First Sunday before the Nativity). On these days the Prophets and other righteous souls who lived died before the coming of Christ are remembered.

## Row 2

**December 17: Continuation of the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers** (the Second Sunday before the Nativity) and the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (the First Sunday before the Nativity). On these days the Prophets and other righteous souls who lived before the Coming of Christ are remembered.

**December 18: Saint Sebastian** ("and those with him") lived during the reign of Emperors Diocletian and Maximian, where he occupied the position head of the imperial guards. Two brothers who were imprisoned for their belief in Christ were on the verge of denouncing Christ when Saint Sebastian met them. He told them that if they died for Christ that he would also. After the deaths of these two brothers, Saint Sebastian was interrogated by Emperor Diocletian. Because Saint Sebastian's devotion to Christ, he was ordered to be tied to a tree and shot with arrows. Irene, the wife of Saint Castulus, went at night to bury the body, but found him alive. He soon recovered from the wounds and was found again by the emperors, who ordered him to be killed and his body thrown in the sewer.

**December 19: Saint Boniface** was the slave of a wealthy Roman woman journeyed to Tarsus (now Turkey) in order to bring the relics of a martyr to his mistress. Upon arriving, he saw the cruel tortures the Christians were experiencing and asked to kiss their feet. The judge who was present asked him who he was, to which he replied "I am a Christian." He then was stripped of his clothing and hung upside down and tortured, but none of these tortures harmed the saint. Finally the judge ordered his beheading by the sword.

**December 19: Saint Timothy the Deacon** confessed his faith in Christ and was tortured viciously by the pagans. He was killed in Mauritania.

**December 20: Saint Ignatius the God-bearer** was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. The saint was called God-bearer because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. In the year 107, Emperor Trajan sent Saint Ignatius to Rome to be devoured by wild beasts for his rejection of pagan idols. On December 20, he was executed during a pagan festival. After the execution, his heart was cut open and the pagans found an inscription in gold letters that read "Jesus Christ."

**December 21: Saint Juliana** was born to a wealthy family in Nicomedia at the end of the 3rd century. She was betrothed to a man named Elusius who was an advisor to the Emperor. However, as the wedding approached, Juliana broke the engagement declaring that death would be preferable. Her fiancé had her publically punished before she was sentenced to be executed.

**December 21:** At the age of twelve, **Saint Peter Metropolitan of Moscow** studied sciences and the Holy Scriptures and learned iconography. The icons that he painted were distributed to the monks and Christian visitors of the monastery. After years of education, he built a cell on the Rata River and lived in solitude and silence. Prince Yuri suggested that Saint Peter go to the Patriarch of Constantinople with a petition that he be consecrated as Metropolitan of Russia, and in the year 1289, his request was fulfilled. In 1325, Saint Peter transferred the metropolitan See from Vladimir to Moscow because of a prophetically predicted deliverance that Moscow would become the foremost city in Russia. He died on December 21, 1326.

**December 21: The Repose of Peter the Muscovite, Metropolitan of all Russia.** Saint Peter died in 1326. His relics were buried in the Dormition cathedral, in a stone crypt which he himself had prepared. In 1339, under Saint Theognostus, Saint Peter was numbered among the saints. After their annexation to Moscow under Ivan III, the people of Novgorod swore an oath that they would only consecrate their archbishops at the grave of Saint Peter the Wonderworker. His relics were transferred in 1472 and 1479; both transferred were later established as feast days (October 5 and August 24).



### Row 3

**December 22: Saint Anastasia, Deliverer from Potions**, was the wife of a wealthy Roman. She would go in disguise to the prison where she fed, doctored, and sometimes paid ransom for Christian prisoners. When she was discovered by her husband he locked her inside her rooms but he was soon drowned at sea. Anastasia distributed her wealth to the poor and returned to her works of bringing aid and healing to Christian prisoners. Anastasia became known as a wonderworker and as a great healer. She was eventually martyred for her faith but not before converting many people to Christianity.

**December 23: The Ten Apostles of Crete**—Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompus, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus— were all martyred in 3rd century under Emperor Decius. For thirty days, these men were subjected to cruel tortures before they were all beheaded.

**December 23:** In the year 1660, the feast day of **Saint Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow**, was moved from December 23 to January 9. This icon was created before that decision was made. Saint Philip was born to a noble Moscow family, one that had a place in the Boyar дума. He left his family and joined a monastery, changing his name to Philip. He rose in monastic life and was eventually rewarded with the title Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia. This was during the Reign of Ivan the Terrible and on many occasions Philip spoke against the Tsar and his secret police. Saint Philip was arrested, humiliated, and eventually executed.

**December 24: Saint Eugenia** secretly wanted to become a Christian, although her parents were pagans and their city, Alexandria, banished Christians by order of the emperor. She planned a trip outside the city claiming she wanted to see the countryside, but actually wanting to be baptized in a monastery. She remained at the monastery where she helped hide Christians from persecution. Upon hearing this, the emperor had Saint Eugenia forced to a pagan temple, which collapsed immediately before she entered it. Then a rock was tied around her neck and she was thrown in the Tiber River, only to come untied so the saint was unharmed. She was then thrown into a pit, where she died.

**December 25: Nativity of Christ.** Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Caesar Augustus. In Bethlehem, the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph were unable to find a room at any of the city's inns; therefore Mary delivered Jesus in a cave that was used as a stable. The present Feast Day was established by the Church, but the origins date to the time of the Apostles, which states "...first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month." The Nativity of Christ has been noted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts.

**December 26: Synaxis of the Mother of God**, one of the oldest feast days held in honor of Mary, is celebrated on the second day of the Feast of the Nativity. On this day a Hymn of Praise is sung to give glory and thanksgiving to the Mother of God.



**December 26: Saint Joseph the Betrothed** was a descendant of King David and was chosen to be the husband of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity. On the orders of an angel, he fled to Egypt with the Mother of God and Jesus, saving them from the persecution of King Herod. In Egypt he became a carpenter and lived until the age of one hundred.

**December 26:** The eldest son of **Joseph the Betrothed**, **Saint James the Brother of the Lord** fled with Joseph, the Mother of God, and Jesus to Egypt. After the Ascension of the Lord, he became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the reverence from Christians and Jews alike. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple for preaching that Christ was both God and man.

**December 26: King David**, the forefather of Jesus Christ, was distinguished by his strong faith, and his zealous fulfillment of the will of God. During a battle with the Philistines, he defeated the giant Goliath, which led to the victory of Israel in the war. King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah.

**December 26: Saint Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis**, lived in the 8th and 9th centuries and was a member at the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787. He lived through the rulings of four emperors, and was tortured by the last, Theophilus, and died several days later. He is also commemorated on March 8.



#### Row 4

**December 27: Saint Stephen the Archdeacon** was the first Christian martyr, preaching Christianity and defeating Jewish teachers of the Law in debate. He was brought in front of the council and the High Priest to answer their questions. As he gave a speech, he saw the heavens opening and Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God. Saint Stephen was taken outside the city walls and executed.

**December 27: Saint Theodore the Branded** was educated by a pious priest and became a monk, then ordained into the holy priesthood. Leo V the Armenian became emperor and ordered Theodore to be beaten and exiled. He was allowed to return from exile after several years and accepted all tortures rather than convert to iconoclasm. For this he was branded with the verses of a poem which mocked him, thus his name of "the Branded." He died around the year 840 in Apamea.

**December 28: The 20,000 Martyrs burned together in Nicomedia. Emperor Maximian**, on the Feast of the Nativity of Christ in the year 302, sent a herald to the cathedral in Nicomedia, where about 20,000 Christians were gathered in celebration. The herald told the Christians that the emperor would set the church on fire and anyone wanted to escape would have to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. All of the parishioners remained inside the church as it burned and Bishop Anthimus, who was inside at the time, baptized and communed everyone with the Holy Mysteries. The only one who was able to escape the fire

was Bishop Anthimus; all others died.

**December 29: 14,000 Holy Infants slaughtered by King Herod in Bethlehem.** Upon hearing the news of the birth of Christ and a vision he had, King Herod ordered all male infants aged two and under be killed. Herod suspected that the Infant Jesus, whom he viewed as a rival, would be one of them. As a result, God struck Herod dead. Before his death, Herod murdered many priests, his entire family, and seventy men of wisdom.

**December 29: Saint Marcellus** was Abbott of the Monastery of the Unsleeping Ones, so named because the monks prayed both day and night in alternating groups. There he stayed and zealously prayed and fasted. Marcellus soon left the monastery, fearing the death of the current abbot would place him as the head, a responsibility he did not want to pursue. After the death of the abbot, Marcellus returned to the monastery where a new abbot had already been chosen, but who died shortly thereafter. Marcellus then occupied the abbot position for the following sixty years. As the abbot, he built a large church, a hospital, and a hostel for the homeless. He also treated the sick and healed many people who asked for his prayers. He died in the year 485.

**December 30: Saint Anysia** lived during the reign of Maximian and led a strict Christian life of fasting, vigil, and prayer. During his reign, Maximian issued an edict stating that anyone had the right to kill Christians without consequences. Anysia was on her way to church when a pagan soldier stopped her and demanded that she offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. She refused twice, and then pushed the soldier to the ground and spit on him and proclaimed "My Lord Jesus Christ forbids you." The soldier then killed her with his sword. Christians built a chapel over her grave.

**December 30: Saint Zoticus the Feeder of Lepers** was in service to Saint Constantine the Great in the fourth century. He was ordained to the priesthood and received money from the emperor in order to build a place of treatment for the sick, where he took those afflicted with leprosy. When Saint Constantine's son took over power, Saint Zoticus was accused of receiving money from a deceased emperor and spending it on jewels. He was ordered to be tortured and killed.

**December 31: Saint Timon** was one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to minister to destitute Christian widows. He was later elected bishop of Bosra in Syria, where he preached and converted many to Christianity. He was later tortured and killed.

**December 31: Saint Melania** married at the age of fourteen and asked her husband to live with her in chastity or else release her from marriage. After she bore two children who died as infants, Melania and her husband traveled to visit the sick and poor, to minister to those in prison for their beliefs, and to assist with building of hospitals and churches. After much travel, Saint Melania founded a monastery but lived in seclusion on the Mount of Olives. Near death, she returned to the monastery and told the priest and the sisters her final instructions before dying in the year 439.