

STROGANOV MINYEIAS

JULY

Side A



Row 1

July 1: Saints Cosmas and Damian the Unmercenarys, brothers by birth, were given the gift of wonder-working and healed many people. Because they would not accept payment, they were called “unmercenary physicians.” Soldiers were sent after the brothers, but being unable to find them, took ahold of two other Christians. The brothers emerged from hiding and asked the soldiers to release the two men. As they were in front of the emperor Carinus, a light shone from God, blinding the emperor. The brothers healed his blindness and he set them free. An older pagan physician, who had taught the brothers about medicine in the past, asked them to go into the mountains to collect herbs for a project. They agreed and the instructor murdered them in the mountains and threw their bodies in a river.

July 2: The Placing of the Robe of Mother of God at Blachernae. The robe of the Mother of God was discovered during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo the Great in a small settlement near Nazareth. A church was constructed in nearby Blachernae to house the robe and a great ceremony was held as it was placed in a reliquary on the altar. Thereafter the robe was believed to have protected the city from many attempted invasions. In 860, the fleet of the Russian Prince Askold came to Constantinople and the Robe was brought there in the hopes that the Mother of God would protect the city. The altercation ended in a peace agreement and the Russians left willingly and trade opened between Russia and the Byzantine Empire. This marks the beginning of Orthodox Christianity spreading into Russia.

July 2: Saint Juvenal Patriarch of Jerusalem, occupied the throne of the holy city during the years 420 through 458. In 451, at the Fourth Ecumenical Council, he affirmed the Orthodox belief of the two natures in Christ. Saint Juvenal would not respond to the heretics’ demands that he renounce this belief.

July 3: Saint Hyacinth was a member of the emperor’s clan, but he was found praying to God when others were praying to the pagan gods. Hyacinth was only 12 when he was thrown in prison and was only given food that had been sacrificed to the idols. He refused eat the food since it would mean that he was participating in pagan rituals and instead died after thirty-eight days.

July 3: Saint Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople, was born in the second half of the 4th century. Elected to the See of Constantinople, he zealously set about fighting the heresies of Nestorius and Eutyches. He composed many liturgical hymns that are still used today and are designated as “Anatolian” verses in service books.

July 3: Saint John the Holy Fool, Wonderworker of Moscow, moved to Rostov later in life where he began his exploit of holy foolishness for Christ. He wore chains with heavy iron crosses, and on his head wore an iron cap. In Moscow he went barefoot and almost naked in the most severe frost. He was not afraid to preach to those he came across, no matter their social status, and would even rebuke the Tsar.

July 4: Saint Andrew, Archbishop of Crete, born in the 7th century and did not speak until he was seven years old and was given the Eucharist. He participated in the Sixth Ecumenical Council, became Archbishop of Crete, and wrote many liturgical hymns and began a new liturgical form called the canon.

July 4: Saint Martha, Mother of Saint Simeon Stylites the Younger (May 24), lived during the 6th century. She is remembered as a pious women who was very reserved and charitable to the poor. She died peacefully and was buried at the monastery founded by her son.

July 5: Saint Athanasius the Anthonite was raised by a pious nun. After the death of the nun, he was brought to Constantinople where he led a strict and abstinent life with little sleep, bread and water, and only a stool to sit on. He built two churches which flourished with monks and followers.

July 5 Saint Sergius of Radonezh was born on May 3, 1313, and was tonsured on October 7, the Feast of the Roman Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus. Candidates for the tonsure were customarily named for the saint whose memorial was on that day. Sergius then withdrew to the wilderness and prayed fervently to God to protect him from wild animals and beasts. He became the head of a monastery and began to wear only the simplest of clothing—a heavy, old, course cloth. The followers in the monastery began to demand a system of water for the members, so Saint Sergius prayed for a spring, which was granted.

July 6: Saint Sisoës the Great, born in 429, spent sixty years in the desert and gained the gift of wonderworking. He was extremely strict with himself, being merciful and compassionate to others and accepting everyone with love. Upon his deathbed, he was surrounded by monks who stated that an angel came and took his soul.

July 7: Saint Thomas of Mount Maleon was a military commander before becoming a monk, abandoning the world and its honors. He lived in the wilderness and is remembered as a wonderworker.

July 7: Saint Akakiy of Sanai lived during the 6th century and was a novice in a monastery. He was patient and obedient to his Elder, who forced Saint Akakiy to perform hard labor, and starved and beat him. Saint Akakiy endured these torments for nine years before dying.



Row 2

July 8: Saint Procopius of Jerusalem, whose birth name was Neanius, was a 3rd century Roman who was raised and served in Emperor Diocletian's government. He was converted to Christianity while traveling to Alexandria and was baptized Procopius. He was later arrested, publicly punished, and beheaded. His mother witnessed his punishments, converted, and placed herself with those to be executed.

July 8: The Icon of the Annunciation Icon at Ustiug is a miracle working icon that was created by a Novgorod iconographer under the direction of Prince Vsevolod-Gabriel. Saint Procopius the Holy Fool is said to have prayed before the icon to save the city in the 13th century. In 1567, the icon was brought to Moscow and placed in the Dormition cathedral. It is now located at the state Tretyakov Gallery.

July 8: Saint Procopius the Holy Fool of Ustiug is a little known saint. It is believed that he prayed before the miracle working icon of the Annunciation to protect the city and he is remembered as a Holy Fool or Fool for Christ. His relics are believed to be responsible for many healings.

July 8: The Appearance of the Icon of the Mother of God Kazanskaya. In 1579 a miracle working icon of the Mother of God was discovered in the Kazan cemetery church.

July 9: Saint Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was a 1st century Christian who was a child when Christ was alive and preaching. After the ascension, Pancratius was baptized with his family and was made Bishop of Taormina, Sicily, by Saints Peter and Paul. He built a church there and gathered a thriving community, but after several years was stoned by pagans.

July 9: Saint Theodore, Bishop of Edessa, was a 9th century monk at a monastery in Jerusalem. He was later named bishop of Edessa and was known as a wonderworker and healer. He once traveled to Baghdad to meet with the Caliph Mavi and discuss the treatment of Christians living there. It is said that the Caliph was healed of illness by Saint Theodore and converted to Christianity.

July 9: Saints Dionysius the Rhetorician, Metrophanes, and those they taught lived during the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century. Saint Dionysius was a distinguished ascetic monk and Metrophanes was his student. The two lived together in a cave near Saint Anne's Skete on Mount Athos. The cave later became known as Little Saint Anne's as the two gathered many pupils over the years and taught them how to practice strict asceticism.

July 9: The Appearance of the Icon of the Mother of God Mozhaiskaya took place in 1413 in a small community near Mozhaisk called Koloch. It is said that a young boy named Luke found the icon and took it home where it healed a sick person. Many came to be healed from the icon and so it was brought first to Mozhaisk and later to Moscow. Eventually a church was built at the site of its first appearance and the icon was returned there.

July 10: Saints Leontius, Maurice, Dalmatski and 42 Others at Nicopolis. Forty-five martyrs, headed by Leontius, Maurice, and Dalmatski, were martyred during the reign of the Emperor Licinius (311-324). Their bodies were burned and thrown into a river, but Christians secretly gathered and buried what they could.

July 10: Saint Anthony of the Kiev Far Caves was born in 983 in Rus but left as an adult to join a monastery on Mount Athos. After studying asceticism for many years, Anthony was sent back to Rus to teach monasticism in Kiev. He is remembered as a wonderworker and as the founder of monasticism in Russia.



Row 3

July 10: The Placing of the Robe of Christ in Moscow took place in 1625 and refers to the lower portion of the outer robe which, according to tradition, was torn into four separate pieces. It had been in the treasury of the Svetitskhoveli cathedral in Georgia until the 17th century when the Persian Shah Abbas I took it and other treasures to the Tsar Michael as a gift. Each year in Moscow on July 10, the robe is brought out of a chapel at the Dormition Cathedral and is placed on a stand for veneration.

July 11: Saint Euphemia was martyred during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). In the year 451 the Fourth ecumenical council met in Chalcedon near the church where Euphemia was buried. The council was brought together to discuss the nature of Christ and the validity of the Monophysites' (one nature) arguments. It is said that the Patriarch placed two scrolls, each bearing the arguments of one side, on the relics of Euphemia. After three days, her tomb was reopened and the hand holding the Orthodox (non-monophysite) scroll was raised.

July 11: Princess Olga, Princess of Kievan Rus was regent ruler in the middle of the 10th century and is remembered for her success in putting down the Drevlian uprising, who were responsible for the death of her husband, and the revenge she took upon them. She later took an emissary to Constantinople and visited with Constantine the VII. It was then that she was formerly baptized as a Christian and given the name Helen. She was unsuccessful in spreading Christianity throughout ancient Rus but had a strong influence on her grandson, Vladimir the Great, who is credited with establishing it as the state religion.

July 12: Saints Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra were martyred during the reign of the Emperor Trajan (98-117). Proclus was arrested and was made to run behind the chariot of the Governor Maximus. It is said that through the prayers of Proclus the chariot halted and would not move until the Governor signed a written confession acknowledging Christ. After this incident Maximus sentenced Proclus to death. On the way to the execution site they met Saint Hilary, nephew of Proclus, who confessed himself a Christian and was subsequently arrested and beheaded.

July 12 Saint Michael of Maleinus was a monk in the early 10th century whose spiritual endeavors made him well known in the monastic community. He founded a monastery in a place called Dry Lake and another on Mount Kyminas. One of his students, Saint Athanasius, founded the first cenobitic monastery on

July 12: Saint Mary of Persia was born with the name Golinduch and baptized with the name Mary. She was a 6th century wife of a pagan magician of the Persian Empire. For leaving her husband and failing to go back to him, she was sentenced to life in prison, of which she spent eighteen years. When the persecution against Christians ended, she was set free and openly preached the Christian faith until her death in 591.

July 13: The Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel is celebrated on the day after the Annunciation, and a second time on July 13. It was instituted in the 9th century, possibly to celebrate the dedication of the church in Constantinople. Originally the Feast was observed on October 16.

July 13: Saint Stephen the Sabaite, the nephew of Saint John Damascus, was born in the year 725. At the age of 10, he was tonsured as a monk at the Lavra of Saint Sava the Sanctified. He spent his entire life in this monastery and in seclusion in the desert, and as a result was given the gifts of clairvoyance and wonderworking. He also healed the sick and cast out demons. He died in the year 794.



Row 4

July 14: Saint Aquila, an Apostle of the Seventy, and his wife Saint Priscilla were compelled to leave Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius in the 1st century. Having received baptism from Apostle Paul, Aquila and Priscilla became his devoted and zealous disciples. They both traveled to Asia Minor where Aquila became bishop and Priscilla assisted him. They were both murdered by pagans.

July 14: Saint Onesimius, the Wonderworker of Magnesia, was born in Caesarea at the beginning of the 4th century and entered the monastery Ephesus. When Emperor Diocletian took the throne, the monks abandoned the monastery and the saint returned home. With his parents blind and unable to see him, Saint Onesimius traveled to Magnesia and established his own monastery, to which he invited his parents to so that they could be healed. He passed away peacefully to the Lord.

July 14: Saint Stephen Makhreshche accepted monasticism and journeyed to Moscow in the 14th century. He spent his life in silence until 1358, when he decided to build a monastery. The monk lived to an old age and died on July 14, 1406.

July 15: Saint Julitta and her three-year-old son **Saint Cyricus** departed the city when the persecution against Christians arose under the reign of Emperor Diocletian. She concealed her noble rank in Seleucia, and then in Tarsus, but was recognized and arrested in 305. She firmly confessed her faith in Christ and was beaten. Cyricus watched in horror and tried to rescue her, but was killed when the governor kicked him down the stairs. After many more tortures, Saint Julitta was beheaded.

July 15: Saint Vladimir the Great, Prince of Kievan Rus, is credited with establishing Christianity as the state religion of all Rus in 988. According to tradition, he sent envoys to learn about other religions and report back. It was the account of those who visited Hagia Sophia in Constantinople that endeared him towards Orthodoxy. Many historians speculate that his conversion was politically motivated as it created strong ties between Rus and Byzantium. It is also likely that he was strongly influenced by his grandmother, Saint Olga (July 11), who converted to Christianity decades earlier.

July 16: Saint Athenogenes and his ten disciples lived in the city of Sebastea in Cappadocia. The governor discovered that Bishop Athenogenes was preaching Christianity and soldiers went to find him at the monastery where he lived. He was not there, but they arrested his disciples and jailed them. Saint Athenogenes tried to secure their release, but he was also arrested. All of them were tortured, and eventually beheaded.

July 16: The Church Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is typically celebrated on the Sunday closest to July 13. Each of the six councils is pictured separately with a scene that includes the major players. The first two councils are featured on side A, while the remaining four are on side B.

The First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea is also celebrated on May 29 and on the 7th Sunday after Easter. It was convened by Constantine I in 325 and was the first effort to attain consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom. The primary issue under discussion was the Arian Controversy and the main accomplishments were settling the Arian Heresy and the drafting of the first part of the Nicene Creed.

The Second Ecumenical Council in Constantinople is celebrated on May 22 and was convened in Constantinople in 381 by Emperor Theodosius to discuss the continued arguments of the Arian movement and offshoots of that group. There were several other philosophical matters discussed and the Nicene Creed was amended to include the Holy Spirit.

Side B



Row 1

July 16: The Church Fathers of the first 6 Six Ecumenical Councils is typically celebrated on the Sunday closest to July 13. Each of the 6 councils is pictured separately with a scene that includes the major players. Councils 1 and 2 are featured on side a while 3-6 are on side b.

The Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus is also celebrated on September 9 and was convened in 449 by Emperor Theodosius II. The council confirmed the Nicene Creed and condemned the teachings of Nestor, who believed that Mary should be called Christotokos ("Birth Giver of Christ") but not Theotokos ("Birth Giver of God").

The Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon is also celebrated on July 16 and was convened in the year 451 by Emperor Marcian. It disputed the Monophysite movement and issued the Chalcedonian Definition, which defined the two natures of Christ as both God and Man.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople is also celebrated on July 25 and was convened in 553 by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I. Its main accomplishment was to condemn a group of writings known as the "Three Chapters."

The Sixth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople is also celebrated on January 23 and was convened by Emperor Constantine IV in 680. This council defined Jesus Christ as having two energies or wills, both divine and human.



Row 2

July 17: Saint Marina of Antioch lost her mother in infancy and was instead raised by a nurse who taught her Christianity. At the age of 15, Marina was disowned by her father, a pagan priest, and arrested during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). The governor was struck by her beauty and asked her to renounce Christianity and marry him but she refused and was subject to torture. When the governor ordered her to be drowned, a miracle occurred, and she was healed. This enraged the governor, who ordered that Marina be beheaded.

July 17: Saint Irenarchus of Solovetsky was a 17th century monk who led the Solovetsky monastery during a tumultuous time for Northern Russia. The area was under threat of invasion from the Swedish and Danish armies and Irenarchus fortified the monastery to protect the monks.

July 18: Saint Emilian of Durostorum was a Christian slave during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate, who worked to reinstate Hellenic Pluralism as the state religion. Emilian's master beat and threatened him in an effort to force him to renounce his faith. Emilian was steadfast and was sentenced to death by burning.

July 18: Saint Hyacinthus of Amastridea was born into a pagan family and given his name by an angel. According to tradition, the three year old Hyacinthus prayed for the life of another dead child and was answered. The two grew up as brothers. Saint Hyacinth chopped down a tree that was worshipped by pagans. For this, he was tortured and put in prison, where he died.

July 19: Saint Macrina, the sister of Basil the Great, was born in Cappadocia in the early 4th century. She was one of 10 children. Her mother, Saint Emilia, taught Macrina to read scripture, pray, and attend church. She was betrothed to a young man who died before they were married. Macrina then became a nun, helping to raise her younger siblings before joining a monastery. She is remembered as an ascetic and as a wonderworker.

July 19: Saint Dius of Antioch was born at the end of the 4th century into a Christian family. It is said that he became a wonderworker at a young age and received a vision instructing him to go to Constantinople and serve the people. The citizens began to go to the saint for healing and spiritual advice. The Emperor Theodosius the Younger provided the funds for the saint to build a monastery and Dius gathered a thriving community.

July 20: The Prophet Elijah, remembered as one of the greatest prophets, lived during the 9th century BCE. He lived in the wilderness, where he fasted, meditated, and prayed. He foretold of coming famine after King Ahab built a temple dedicated to the god Baal and performed miracles to prove the falsehoods of gentile priests. Elijah is believed to have been taken to heaven on a fiery chariot leaving a double portion of his spirit to his successor Elisha.

July 20: Saint Abraham of Galich (Chukhloma Lake) was a 14th century ascetic monk who found an icon of the Mother of God emitting a brilliant light. Prince Demetrius of Galich provided the resources for Saint Abraham to build a monastery near the place where the icon appeared. During his lifetime, Abraham established three other monasteries dedicated to the Mother of God.

July 20: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Saint Gava of Storozhevsky. There is no saint by that name in Museum sources.

July 21: Saints John and Simeon were close friends from wealthy families in Edessa. On the return from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, they decided to become monks and practice strict asceticism in the desert. After nearly 30 years, Simeon left the desert to serve people in Emesa, where he became a Holy Fool or Fool for Christ. John remained in the desert. They died within a short time of each other.

July 21: The Prophet Ezekiel lived during the 6th century BCE as a captive in Babylon during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. His prophecy, which is recorded in the Old Testament Book named for him, is believed to prefigure the birth of the Son of God by a virgin and the four Evangelists who are represented by a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. Ezekiel preached to other captive Hebrews that the Temple of Jerusalem would be restored and worked miracles that helped them escape. He was later executed for denouncing a Hebrew prince for idolatry.

July 22: Saint Mary Magdalene was, according to tradition, a beautiful young woman who lived a life of sin. She was healed by Christ, became a disciple, and traveled with Him and the Apostles. According to the Gospels, Mary Magdalene was present at the Procession of Christ and His Crucifixion. She was the first witness to the resurrection of Christ and continued to preach about the Resurrection for the rest of her life. In doing so, she used a red egg as a symbol of the resurrection; this is the origin of the tradition of red eggs associated with Easter in the Orthodox Church.

July 22: Saint Phocas was a bishop in Sinope in the 2nd century. He converted many pagans and was tortured and martyred for his faith. He is believed to provide protection against fire and drowning. Traditionally, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Phocas to Constantinople on July 22 and his feast day on September 22.



Row 3

July 23: Saints Trophimus and Theophilus and 13 others were Christians who were arrested, tortured, and killed under the emperor Diocletian (284-305).

July 23: Unknown Saint – This martyr is labeled as Hieromartyr Phocas. There is a Saint Phocas, Bishop of Sinope, who is celebrated, and featured, on July 22. The figure is clothed in a white robe, which indicates someone who was especially pure, and holds a martyr’s cross.

July 24: Saint Christina of Tyre was born to a wealthy family in the 3rd century. Her father was a governor and he sent her to live in solitude and make offerings to idols in hopes that she would become a pagan priestess. Instead, she prayed to God and was visited by an angel. Christina destroyed all the idols and her father beat her and had her locked in prison. She is said to have survived many tortures and when her father decided to kill her, he suddenly died himself. Two other governors tried unsuccessfully to torture her. She converted many people to Christ, and was later executed.

July 24: Saints Boris and Gleb, Princes of Kiev, were sons of Vladimir the Great. After Vladimir’s death, another of his sons, Sviatopolk, took the throne and planned to have Boris and Gleb killed. Boris refused to fight against his brother, and he was killed. Thinking their father was still alive, Gleb returned home to see him, but was murdered on the way. The brothers are considered Passion Bearers because they did not respond to their brother with violence. They died in 1015. Boris and Gleb are also commemorated on May 2.

July 25: Saint Anna, mother of Mary, was the daughter of a priest from Bethlehem. She lived with her husband Joachim in Galilee. They remained childless into old age and were ostracized from their community. They separated and prayed for a child, and finally, an angel told them that they would bear a daughter who would give birth to the Savior. Saints Anna and Joachim met at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. The Church traditionally commemorates the Dormition of Anna on July 25, and her feast day on September 9.

July 25: Saint Eupraxia of Tabenna was born into a wealthy noble family at the end of the 4th century. Her father died when she was just seven, and she traveled with her mother to Egypt. There, they came upon a women’s monastery, where Eupraxia decided to stay. She spent the rest of her life at the monastery, practicing strict asceticism, and refusing to marry the man to whom her late parents had betrothed her. Eupraxia is remembered as a healer and a wonderworker.

July 25: Saint Olympias of Constantinople was young when her parents died. She inherited her parents’ wealth and prepared to marry the man to whom they had betrothed her. He died before the ceremony and Olympias decided not to pursue another marriage. Instead, she gave her riches to the poor and needy. Holy Patriarch Nectarius (381-397) made her a deaconess.

July 25: Saint Macarius of Yeltovoda was born in 1349. When he was 12, he ran away from home and became a monk at the Nizhni-Novgorod Caves monastery. Three years later, his father went to the monastery and tried to bring him home, but Macarius refused. Macarius then moved near Yellow Lake, where he adopted a life of asceticism and built a monastery. Macarius is believed to have healed a girl through prayer, and his relics were said to work many miracles which were certified by Patriarch Philaret in 1619.

July 26: Saints Hermolaus, Hermippus, and Hermocrates survived a fire that killed many Christians in a church in Nicomedia, upon the orders of emperor Maximian. They were later arrested and were tortured and killed their faith. Note: Here, for unknown reasons, Saint John Vekhiya (below) appears between Hermocrates and the other two martyrs.

July 26: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Saint John Vekhiya and is placed amongst Saints Hermolaus, Hermippus, and Hermocrates.

July 27: Saint Panteleimon was born to a pagan father and Christian mother. When his mother died, his father sent him to school where he studied medicine. Panteleimon befriended Saint Hermolaus (July 26), who baptized him. Panteleimon healed many through medicine and prayer and openly refused to offer sacrifice to pagan gods. For this, Emperor Maximian had Panteleimon tortured and killed. In the Orthodox Church, Saint Panteleimon is venerated as the protector of soldiers.

July 27: Saint Nicholas Kochanov was born into a prosperous family in Novgorod at the end of the 14th century and was regarded as being extremely pious. When people began to praise his piety, Nicholas rejected their admiration for fear of becoming prideful. Instead, he became a Holy Fool, a unique form of asceticism. He and Saint Theodore, another Novgorod Holy Fool, pretended to be bitter enemies, and together they engaged in mock feuds and other strange behavior to highlight the sinfulness of those living in Novgorod.



Row 4

July 28: Saints Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas were four of the first seven deacons in the Church and are commemorated together with the other three deacons on July 28. Saint Prochorus is usually depicted as a scribe of Saint John the Theologian and is credited with assisting John with the writing of the Book of Revelation.

July 28: The Appearance of the Icon of the Mother of God Smolenskaya – According to Church tradition, the Hodigitria (She who leads the way) icon was painted by Luke the Evangelist during the lifetime of the Mother of God. It was transferred to different churches over many years, finally arriving at the Smolensk cathedral at the beginning of the 12th century, and became known as the Smolensk Hodigitria. This icon, and many copies made from it, are believed to be miracle working.

July 29: Saint Callinicus was raised as a Christian, and converted many to Christianity through his preaching. In the city of Ancyra (Ankara), he was arrested and ordered by the governor Sacerdonus to offer sacrifice to idols, which he refused. Sacerdonus ordered Callinicus to be tortured and brought to the city of Gangra to be burned to death. On that journey, Callinicus performed the miracle of getting water from a stone. Upon arriving at Gangra, Callinicus voluntarily walked into the fire. His body was said to have remained unharmed.

July 29: The transfer of the **Velikoretsky Wonderworking Icon of Saint Nicolas** from Vyatka to Moscow took place in 1555. The icon was discovered in 1383 near the Velikaya River by a peasant. He brought it back to his village, where many healings and miracles were attributed to it. The villagers built a chapel for the icon, and the chapel became a pilgrimage site. A town grew up around the chapel. Citizens from the regional capital brought the icon to their church for safekeeping, while promising to return it to its original site once a year. For more than 600 years, tens of thousands of pilgrims annually make the 100 mile round trip journey from Kirov to Velikoretsky. This pilgrimage traditionally takes place from June 3 to June 8. It is not clear why it is depicted here at the end of July.

July 30: Saints Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy Apostles – Saint Silas assisted Saint Paul in his travels to preach the Gospel. They were beaten and jailed in the city of Philippi for inciting unrest. When an earthquake struck the region, the two were miraculously released from prison. Saint Silas was later consecrated as a bishop and many miracles are attributed to him. Saint Silvanus was also named a bishop and preached with Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

July 30: Saint John the Warrior was a soldier in the army of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) who sought to restore Hellenic Polytheism. While appearing to persecute Christians, he actually secretly helped them escape from mistreatment. When the Emperor learned of this betrayal, he ordered that Saint John be sent to prison. When Julian the Apostate died, Saint John was set free and lived a holy and charitable life.

July 31: Saint Eudocimus was born in Cappadocia to Basil and Eudokia, who were admired Christians. He lived a chaste and pious life, and was appointed governor by the Emperor. Much of his charity for the less fortunate was done in secret. Many miracles are associated with his relics, which were later transferred to the church of the Most Holy Theotokos in Constantinople.

July 31: Saint Julitta lived during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). When all her belongings were stolen, Julitta went to court but was refused restitution because she was a Christian. The judge said that her property would be returned if she renounced Christ, which she refused. In punishment, she was burned to death.