

STROGANOV MINYEIAS

NOVEMBER

Side One



Row 1

November 1: Saints Cosmas and Damian of Mesopotamia – The brothers Cosmas and Damian were known healers and miracle workers during their lifetimes. Stories of their miracle working continued after their deaths. They traveled throughout the area now known as Turkey and tended to those who were ill and injured, refusing any payment from those they helped. These saints should not be confused with Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (celebrated July 1) or Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (celebrated October 17).

November 1: Saint Theodota of Mesopotamia – Saint Theodota was the mother of martyrs Cosmas and Damian. It was Theodota who taught her sons scripture and helped them to become physicians.

November 1: Saint Juliana of Cilicia – Saint Juliana was a 4th century Christian who was arrested during the reign of emperor Maximian Galerius (305-311). She was publicly humiliated before her execution.

November 2: Saints Acindynus, Pegasius, Aphthonius, Elpidophorus, and Anempodistus – Saint Acindynus and those with him lived in Persia in the 4th century during the reign of King Shapur II (309-379). The King initially was tolerant of the Christians in his realm however he began to mistrust them after his enemy Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, distrust turned to hostility when war broke out between the two nations in 337. Acindynus, Pegasius, Aphthonius, Elpidophorus, and Anempodistus were martyred alongside some 7000 other Christians.

November 3: Saints Akepsimas, Joseph, and Aithalas – These three saints were Christian leaders in Persia during the reign of King Shapur II. Akepsimas was Bishop of Persia, Joseph was a Priest, and Aithalas a Deacon. The three were arrested and eventually martyred for their faith. Their bodies were taken secretly by Christians who gave each a proper burial. A tree grew over the grave of Aithalas and it is believed that he may have

November 3: The Dedication of the Church Saint George in Lydda – This church was constructed during the reign of Constantine and was dedicated to Saint George. When construction was completed the relics of Saint George were transferred to the church. It is believed that many miracles took place in the Church and so it is commemorated just as a Saint or Miracle—working icon.



Row 2

November 4: Saint Joannicus the Great – Joannicus drafted into in the imperial army during the 8th century. When he concluded his military service Joannicus joined a monastery and began to study the ascetic lifestyle eventually leaving the monastery to live as a hermit in the wilderness. He became renowned for his faith, it is said that he performed many miracles and was gifted in prophecy.

November 4: Saints Nicander, Bishop of Myra, and Hermas – Nicander and Hermas were disciples of the Titus who was the disciple of Apostle Paul. These early Christians were arrested, tortured, and eventually killed for converting others to their faith.

November 4: Unknown Saint – This figure is labeled as Saint Gregory. There are many saints by that name of but according to museum sources none are celebrated on November 4th.

November 5: Saints Galaction and Episteme – Saint Galaction was born to wealthy Christian parents, Kletophon and Leukippe, in the Syrian city of Emesa during a time when Christianity was illegal. He left the city with his fiancé before their wedding. There were two secret monasteries near each other, one for men and the other for women, the couple lived there for several years. Eventually authorities discovered the existence of the monasteries and the two Saints were arrested and martyred.

November 5: Saints Patrobus, Hermas, Linus, Gaius, and Philogus – These Saints were of the Seventy Apostles of Christ, mentioned in Luke 10:1-24. The Seventy traveled to various cities and regions to preach the Gospel in the early days of Christianity. Saint Patrobus was bishop in Neopolis and Puteoli in Italy. Saint Hermas was bishop in Philippopolis where he died as a martyr. Saint Linus was a successor to the chief of apostles, Peter. Saint Gaius was the bishop of Ephesus after Saint Timothy. Saint Philogus was consecrated as bishop of the city of Sinope by Saint Andrew.

November 5: Saint Jonah of Novgorod – Saint Jonah was a 15th century Monk with an illustrious career. He was well liked by the people of Novgorod and was chosen for Archbishop in 1458. He built a church dedicated to Saint Sergius of Radonezh in 1463. After that Jonah played an active role in the building of the Solovetsky Monastery.

November 6: Saint Paul of Constantinople – Saint Paul was a 4th century Christian who was chosen to succeed Patriarch Alexander. This was during the Arian Heresy, which refers to a series of controversies within the Orthodox Church that occurred over the course of half a century. It was a result of a movement started by Priest and Theologian Arius who led fierce theological debates with the Bishop Athanasius. When Saint Paul was chosen as Patriarch the Emperor Constantius, an Arian, contrived to depose him. Paul was banished to Rome and then later to Armenia where he was murdered by a group of Arians.

November 6: Saint Barlaam of khutyn – Saint Barlaam was a 12th century monk who spend much of his life in isolation practicing strict asceticism. He became known to be a wonderworker and gained a following of monks and faithful who wished to learn from him and there they established a monastery.

November 7: Saint Hieron and the 32 other Martyrs of Melitene – Saint Hieron Hieron was a 3rd century Christian who was conscripted into the Roman army. The soldiers were ordered to offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods, Hieron and 32 others refused and were executed as Christian rebels. The other Martyrs were Hesychius, Nicander, Athanasius, Mamas, Barachius, Callinicus, Theogenes, Nikon, Longinus, Theodore, Valerius, Xanthius, Theodoulus, Callimachus, Eugene, Theodochus, Ostrychius, Epiphanius, Maximian, Ducitius, Claudian, Theophilus, Gigantius, Dorotheus, Theodotus, Castrichius, Anicletus, Themelius, Etychius, Hilarion, Diodotus and Amonitus.

November 7: Saint Lazarus of Galisios – Saint Lazarus was an 11th century monk at the monastery of Saint Slava in Palestine. He took on the ascetic lifestyle and settled on a desolate mountain called Galisios where it is said he received visions. Lazarus built a church on the mountain and was later joined by many monks who sought to learn from him.



Row 3

November 8: Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other Celestial Powers – The Synaxis of the Chief of the heavenly Hosts was established in the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea. A Feast day was incorporated in November, the ninth month after March, since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven. The nine Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies.

November 9: Saints Onesiphorus and Porphyrius of Ephesus – Saints Onesiphorus and Porphyrius were 3rd century Christians who were arrested, tortured, and martyred for faith under the persecutions by Diocletian.

November 9: Saint Matrona of Constantinople – Saint Matrona was a 5th century Christian who sought to live the ascetic lifestyle. She left her husband and daughter and joined a men’s monastery disguising herself so that her husband could not find her. Some of the monks at the monastery came to realize her true identity and sent her to the women’s monastery in a nearby town where she was unanimously made head of the convent. Throughout the rest of her life, she traveled around the lands and established three monasteries for women. At the age of one hundred, Saint Martrona passed away.

November 9: Saint Theoctiste of the Isle of Lesbos – Saint Theoctiste was sent to be raised in a monastery after the death of her parents. In the year 846, she traveled to a nearby town where she was taken captive by raiders and taken to a slave market. She escaped from the slavers and spent the next 35 years in

solitude in an abandoned church eating only sunflower seeds. A hunter brought Theoctiste the Eucharist at her request and she died shortly after receiving it. The hunter buried her body but when he returned with his companions they found that the body had vanished.

November 9: Saint John the Short of Egypt – Saint John and his elder brother Daniel were 5th century monks in Egypt. John wished to attempt an extreme form of asceticism and believed that he could equal the angels of heaven. Daniel, his brother, allowed him to remove his clothing and live in a deserted place. One cold night, John returned to the monastery asking for food and clothing. Daniel would not let him in believing that his brother needed a lesson in humility. The next day Saint John was ordered to carry and pour water on a dry stick until it became abundant with fruit. After three years fruit grew and it was labeled as the fruit of obedience in honor of Saint John's lesson.

November 10: Saints Olympas, Aristarkh, Herodian, and others of the Seventy – These Saints were disciples of Saint Paul and were beheaded on the same day and hour when Saint Peter was crucified.

November 10: Saint Theocteristus of Symbola (written Feostirikt) – Saint Theocteristus was the Abbot of Symbola on Mouth Olympus. Very little information is recorded about this saint.

November 11: Saint Menas of Egypt – The holy Martyr Minas was a high ranking military officer during the reign of Diocletian and Maximian. When the emperors began persecuting Christians the saint left the military and fled to a mountain where he lived an ascetic life in prayer and fasting. He later returned to the city and preached Christ's teachings which led to his arrest and execution.



Row 4

November 11: Saint Victor of Damascus – The holy Martyr Victor was a soldier during the reign of emperor Marcus Aurelius in the late second century. When the soldiers were told to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods Victor refused and was arrested. He withstood many tortures and was said to heal many who came to his cell through prayer. When Victor was sentenced to beheading the saint foretold that the soldiers would all die in twelve days and the commander would be captured by the enemy in twenty four.

November 11: Saint Vincent of Spain – Saint Vincent was a 3rd century Deacon the city of Augustopolis, now Saragossa, in Spain. He was a known orator and the Bishop appointed him to preach in Church and amongst the people. He was arrested during the persecutions of Diocletian and was eventually executed.

November 11: Saint Theodore Abbot of the Studion – Saint Theodore was born in 758 to a prominent family in Constantinople, his parents were opposed to the iconoclastic movement which banned the use of icons and began in 741. They abandoned their social standing, gave all their wealth to the poor, and

joined separate monasteries. Theodore became a well-known Iconodule, one who supported the use of icons, and would often speak against those in power for which the saint was punished with imprisonment and exile. Theodore was also an ascetic, following strict fasts, and is believed to have worked many miracles both during his life and after his death.

November 11: Saint Stephanida of Damascus – Saint Stephanida witnessed the persecution of Saint Vincent of Damascus in the late third century. She was moved to express her beliefs in Christ and as a result she was executed.

November 11: Saint Maximus of Moscow – Saint Maximus was a 16th century Christian in Moscow. He chose to follow an extreme form of asceticism called Fool for Christ or Holy Fool, acting as someone who is simple or else mentally unwell. Saint Maximus walked the streets of Moscow in all weathers wearing only a loin cloth. He would rebuke the wealthy and the sinful and speak words of hope to the pious. Maximus died in 1434 and it is believed that many miracles occurred at the site where he was buried. His grave was exhumed in 1547 and his body said to be incorrupt.

November 12: Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria – Saint John was born in the seventh century and became a monk after his wife and children died. He became very well known for his piety and was admired by even the emperor. He became the Patriarch of Alexandria and used his power to care for the poor in Alexandria out of the church's treasury.

November 12: Saint Nilus of Saini – Saint Nilus was a 5th century Christian with a wife and two children. He and his wife decided to forsake secular life and separated. The wife and daughter went to a women's monastery while Nilus and his son, Theodulus, lived in a hand dug cave. Theodulus was kidnaped by raiders, the boy was ransomed by a bishop who then ordained the father and son as priests and sent them to Saini where they lived and preached asceticism.

November 12: Unknown Saint – This figure is labeled as Saint Mariya. According to museum sources there is no Saint by that name celebrated on November 11th.

November 13: Saint John Chrysostom – Saint John Chrysostom was Archbishop of Constantinople in the 4th Century. He is one of the Three Holy Hierarchs, along with Gregory the Theologian (January 25) and Basil the Great (January 1), who are renowned for their great leadership in the early Church. Saint John produced many theological texts and became well known amongst the faithful of the day. He was elected as Archbishop of Constantinople in 397.

November 14: Saint Philip the Apostle – Saint Philip was one of the twelve apostles. After the Ascension of Christ he traveled to different cities preaching and performing miracles. He and his followers were arrested in Hierapolis in the region now known as Turkey and crucified. It is said that an earthquake struck the area as Philip and his followers hung on their crosses, they prayed for the safety of those who persecuted them and those in attendance were converted to Christianity.

November 14: Saint Gregory, Archbishop of Thessalonica – Saint Gregory was born in 1296 and at the age of about twenty, withdrew from society to Mount Athos. Five days out of the week was spent in silence and prayer, and in the 1330s, events took place in the Eastern Church which placed Saint Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy. In 1347 Saint Gregory was ordained Archbishop of Thessalonica and served as such until his death on November 14, 1359.

November 14: Saint Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra – Saint Hypatius is celebrated on March 31 in the Orthodox tradition it is unclear why he is pictured here. The Saint is celebrated on November 14th in the Roman

Catholic tradition and that could account for the error. Saint Hypatius was a 4th century Bishop who participated in the First Nicene Council. After the council's followers of the Arian movement killed the Saint and hid his body in a cave. Later his relics were discovered and were said to have brought many healings and miracles to the faithful.

Side Two



Row 1

November 15: Saints Samonas, Gurias, and the deacon Habib – Gurias and Samonas were two 3rd century Christian friends who were arrested after refusing to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. The two withstood many punishments before their eventual martyrdom. Some years later the Deacon Habib was arrested for preaching Christianity and was also martyred. Many miracles were said to have occurred at the graves of the three saints especially for those seeking help in matters of love and marriage.

November 15: Unknown Saint – This Bishop is translated as Saint Upatiy which could be an alternate spelling of Hypatius. According to museum sources there is no Saint by that name celebrated on November 15th. There is however a Saint Hypatius celebrated on November 16th and another celebrated on November 20.

November 16: Saint Matthew the Apostle – Saint Matthew was a tax collector for Rome before he became one of the 12 Apostles to Christ. After the Ascension of Christ Matthew preached in Syria, Media, Persia, Parthia, and Ethiopia. Matthew wrote one of the four canonical Gospels and was a leader in the early church. He was arrested and martyred in Ethiopia.

November 17: Saint Gregory, Bishop of Neocaesarea – Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea, was born in 213 in the city of Neocaesarea in the region now known as Turkey. He was given a fine education and in his studies he learned of Christianity and left his school to study under a priest named Origen who baptized him after 8 years of study. Saint Gregory practiced strict asceticism and continued his theological studies meeting with many early church leaders including the Apostle John. Saint Gregory is known as a great preacher and miracle worker.

November 17: Saint Nikon of Radonezh – Saint Nikon, Abbot of Radonezh, was considered a “zealot of obedience” because he fulfilled each task administered without argument. After an invasion in 1408 of a monastery he founded just eight years prior, saint Nikon rebuilt the monastery and built new churches and uncovered the relics of Saint Sergius.

November 17: Unknown Saint – This Saint is translated as Saint Gregory. Gregory of Neocaesarea is already featured under November 17th and according to museum sources there is no other Saint by that name celebrated on November 17th.

November 17: Unknown Saint – This Saint is translated as Saint Nikon of Novgorod. According to museum sources there is only one saint Nikon celebrated on November 17th and that is Nikon of Radonezh who is already featured on this icon. There are also no records in museum sources of a Saint Nikon of Novgorod.

November 18: Saint Plato of Ancyra – Saint Plato was arrested and brought in front of the governor where he offered bribes and later threatened with punishment; his tormentors demanded that he forsake his faith make sacrifices at the temple. He refused all offers and withstood all punishments until he was eventually beheaded.

November 18: Romanus of Saesarea – Saint Romanus was arrested for denouncing the pagan faith as idol-worship and attempting to convert people to Christianity. He was ordered to be burned at the stake, but a heavy rain extinguished the fire and the saint preached to the crowd.



Row 2

November 19: Prophet Obadiah – Saint Obadiah, one of the Twelve minor Prophets in the Bible, was a soldier in the 9th century BCE. He secretly worshiped the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when all other Israelites offered sacrifice to Baal. When King Ahab and his wife Jezebel were arresting prophets Obadiah gave them food and shelter; he later resigned from the military and followed the Prophet Elias.

November 19: Saint Barlaam of Caesarea – Saint Barlaam was an old man at the time he was arrested and brought to trial. His right hand was placed over a pagan altar and a red-hot censer was placed in his hand. The torturer thought that a weak old man would not be able to bear much pain and he would drop the incense, therefore involuntarily surrendering to the pagan gods. However, Saint Barlaam held fast to the incense container.

November 19: Saint Barlaam the Hermit – The Venerable Barlaam the Hermit lived in India and disguised himself as a merchant in order to access the son of the emperor, Joasaph and teach him about Christianity. He then returned to his cave in the mountains living alone and in silence, praying.

November 19: Saint Joasaph, Prince of India – Saint Joasaph was converted to Christianity by Saint Barlaam and built many churches when he became emperor. After his father's death, Joasaph abdicated the throne and searched for his teacher in the wilderness. There he spent thirty-five years alone after Barlaam's death, and died at the age of sixty. Both of the saint's relics were found and placed in a church built Joasaph when he was emperor.

November 20: Saint Gregory the Decapolite – Saint Gregory was born in the 8th century and spent most of his life traveling preaching Christian values and denouncing iconoclasm. He died of illness in 816 and

his grave became known as a site of miracles and healing. In 1498, Barbu Craiovescu bought the relics from the Turks to be placed in the Bistrista Monastery, where they remain to the present day.

November 20: Saint Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople – Saint Proclus was Patriarch of Constantinople from 434 to 447 in which he transferred the relics of Saint John Chrysostom from Comana to Constantinople. For a time earthquakes devastated the lands surrounding Constantinople, Saint Proclus led prayers to God to stop them and return the lands to the way they had been. Saint Proclus is remembered as an author of many texts including his discourses against the Nestorians, two tracts of the saint in praise of the Mother of God, and four tracts on the Nativity of Christ

November 21: Presentation of Mary, Mother of God – According to tradition Anna and Joachim, parents of Mary, had vowed to dedicate any child born to them to the Service of God. When Mary was 3 years old she was brought to the Temple where she ascended the stairs to the sanctuary, which only priests could enter. The High Priest Zacharius was amazed that the child could climb the steps and brought her into the sanctuary.

November 22: Saint Philemon of the Seventy – Saint Philemon and his wife Apphia were 1st century Christians who were baptized by the Apostle Paul. Philemon became bishop in the city of Gaza, preached throughout the region, and was martyred during the persecution of Nero between 54 and 68

November 22: Saint Michael Prince of Tver – Saint Michael was born in the year 1272 and inherited the throne in 1305 under the approval of the Golden Horde. Michael was accused of poisoning the wife of his rival Prince Yurii, who was daughter to the Khan. Saint Michael lost his throne and was sentenced to death, he was tied to a board attached to a cart and left to die from exposure. The next day, Orthodox and Tatars reported two radiant clouds over the place his body was laying and that his body was untouched by all the wild animals.

November 22: Saint Cecilia of Rome – Saint Cecilia was born to a wealthy Christian family in Rome. She desired to become a nun but her parents arranged a marriage for her to Valerian, a pagan from another wealthy family. Cecilia refused to allow Valerian to touch her until he met with a certain monk to be baptized. Both Valerian and his brother were baptized and were eventually arrested and martyred, the emperor sought to seize the family wealth but found that Cecilia had already liquidated the estate and given the money to the poor. Cecilia was arrested and martyred.



Row 3

November 23: Saint Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium – Saint Amphilochius lived in the wilderness as an ascetic for nearly forty years until an angel appeared summoning him to go to Iconium to become bishop.

The wise archpastor, gifted as writer and preacher, unceasingly taught piety to his flock, participated in the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, and headed the struggle against the heresy of Macedonius. He died in the year 394.

November 23: Saint Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentium – Saint Gregory was a 6th century Christian born in Sicily and educated by local clergy. He served as a deacon under Patriarch Marcarius in Jerusalem for a time before joining a monastery and studying asceticism. Eventually Gregory came to Constantinople where he was honored by Patriarch Eutychius, invited to participate in the 5th Ecumenical Council, made Bishop of Agrigentium. Saint Gregory is remembered as a wonderworker and as a fervent ascetic.

November 23: Saint Alexander Nevsky, Prince of Novgorod, Grand Prince of Kiev, and Grand Prince of Vladimir – Saint Alexander was a great military leader who successfully protected Ancient Rus from Swedish, German, and Estonian invaders at various times. He was also able to maintain good relations with the Golden Horde who were too powerful at that time to be overcome. His military prowess and political alliances earned him the title Grand Prince of Vladimir (ruler of all Rus) in 1252. Ten years later he became ill and took monastic vows before he died.

November 24: Saint Catherine of Alexandria – Saint Catherine was the daughter of the governor of Alexandria under the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-313). She was famed as a beautiful and intelligent young woman and many men sought her hand in marriage. Catherine refused all and instead studied Christianity under a monk living outside the city. When Maximian came to Alexandria for a pagan festival she refused to participate and confessed her faith to the emperor directly. Taken with her beauty Maximian sent for philosophers to debate her so as to change her faith. When this was unsuccessful the emperor offered Saint Catherine riches and later threatened her with punishment and death, Catherine maintained her faith and was beheaded.

November 24: Saint Mercurius – Saint Mercurius was as a soldier in the Roman army in the 3rd century. It is said that on the eve of a great battle an angel appeared and gave him a sword which brought Mercurius enormous success in battle. Mercurius received many honors and riches, however he renounced all titles just before a pagan festival and was martyred. His grave became the site of many healings.

November 24: Saint Alexander of Corinth was Christian Roman soldier who was martyred in the year 361 under the persecutions of Julian the Apostate.

November 24: Unknown Saint – This Martyr is labeled as Saint Martiri but according to Museum Sources there is no such saint celebrated in the Orthodox Church.

November 24: Saint Mercurius of Smolensk – In the year 1239 Saint Mercurius received word from a church warden who had received a vision of the Mother of God, in this vision the Mother of God commanded that Mercurius go to battle against Tatars who were camped outside of Smolensk. Mercurius was able to kill many soldiers and their leader before being killed himself.

November 25: Saint Clement, Pope of Rome – Saint Clement was baptized by the Apostle Peter and was Bishop of Rome from 92 to 101. During his term as bishop, many pagans denounced Saint Clement to the emperor Trajan, who sent him to a rock quarry to work. Throughout his time there, he converted hundreds of pagans reportedly baptizing as many as 500 people each day. Emperor Trajan ordered him to be drowned an anchor was tied around his neck and he was pushed into the sea.

November 25: Saint Peter of Alexandria – Saint Peter was forced into exile during the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian. He returned to the city and met with Christians that had been imprisoned and encouraged them to keep their faith in Christ, preaching the word of God, and praying

at divine services. Under the steady nurturing of Saint Peter, the church strengthened and grew in spite of the persecutions. In the early fourth century he was arrested and sentenced to death. That night, they took Saint Peter out of the back of the prison and beheaded him at the same site they beheaded Saint Mark. The day following his death, Christians went and picked up his body and head and brought it to the church and dressed him and placed him on his throne.

November 26: Saint Alypius the Stylite – Saint Alypius was the son of a young widow who sent him to a monastery to be educated. He later built a church over a deserted temple and there also built a pillar where he lived, exposed to the elements, for 53 years.

November 26: Dedication of the Church of Saint George in Kiev – It was a tradition for Russian princes to build or sponsor a church in honor of their patron saint. Prince Yaroslav the Wise started to build a church and men's monastery in honor Saint George. It was consecrated by Saint Hilarion, Metropolitan of Kiev, and a yearly commemoration was established in honor of the event.

November 27: Saint James the Persian – Saint James was a 4th century Christian living in Persia where the teachings of Christianity were banned. James was on a military campaign with the emperor Izdegerd when the soldiers were told to make sacrifices to the gods. James did as he was ordered but his family heard of this and sent word that he should proclaim his faith openly. When Saint James did so he was arrested, the emperor had him publically executed with his appendages and limbs being removed before he was beheaded.

November 27: Saint Palladius – There is little information available on this Saint in Museum sources. All that is known is that he lived in the 6th to 7th centuries.

November 27: Saint James, Bishop of Rostov - Saint James was made bishop of Rostov in the year 1385 but was made to leave Rostov after he defended a woman condemned to execution. He built a church with a small cell to live in on the shores of Lake Nero, this site later developed into a monastery.

November 27: Commemoration of the Weeping Icon of the Sign in Novgorod – In 1170 Suzdallian Forces advanced on Novgorod and laid siege to the city under the Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. An icon of the Mother of God of the Sign was removed from the Church of the Transfiguration and brought to the city walls. The enemy shot arrows at the religious procession and one struck the icon, at this point it is said that the image of the Mother of God began to shed tears. The Suzdalian Army, overcome with inexplicable terror, began to fight one another and were quickly defeated by the Novgorodian forces.



Row 4

November 27: The Translation of the Relics of Saint Vsevolod of Pskov – Saint Vsevolod, who is commemorated on February 11th, was Prince of Novgorod in the 12th Century. Vsevolod had political troubles and was forced to leave the city and later became prince of Pskov where he built the city's first stone church. When the prince died in 1138 the people of Novgorod demanded that his remains be brought to their city, however when the Bishop tried to move his coffin it was immovable. His relics were said to have worked miracles in Pskov and on November 27 1192 they were moved, or translated, to a new church built in his honor. The relic were moved again on April 22 1834 to a shrine in the main Cathedral.

November 28: Saint Stephen the Confessor – Saint Stephen was a well-known ascetic, wonderwork, and iconodule, one in opposition to the Iconoclastic movement, who founded two monasteries in the 8th century. He was arrested under orders of Emperor Constantine Copronymos who had the saint imprisoned and later executed. It is said that after his body was thrown into a pit a great storm gathered over the city bringing hail and lightning that killed many.

November 28: Saint Irenarchus of Sebaste – Saint Irenarchus lived during the third century and ministered to martyrs in prison who had been tortured for their Christian faith. The saint was inspired to confess his faith after seeing seven women refuse to renounce Christ under extreme duress. Saint Irenarchus was arrested and beheaded alongside those same women.

November 28: Saint Theodore, Archbishop of Rostov – Saint Theodore was blessed by Saint Sergius to be ordained to the priesthood. He then built a church in honor of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos and founded a monastery in 1379. In 1387 he was consecrated archbishop and occupied the See of Rostov. His death occurred on November 28, 1394 and his relics are located in the Rostov Dormition cathedral. Saint Theodore is pictured twice here, once standing up and other interred in his shrine.

November 29: Saint Paramon of Bithynia – Saint Paramon was martyred under the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251) after he denounced the persecutions of Christians in his city.

November 29: Saint Philumenus of Ancyra – Saint Philumenus was a Christian bread merchant during the reign of Emperor Aurelian (270-275). He was reported to the governor by business rivals and was martyred for his faith.

November 29: Saint Acacius of Sinai – Saint Acacius was under the tutelage of a cruel Elder who would starve him and beat him. Saint Acacius endured this treatment meekly until he died nine years after entering that monastery. The Elder burred him and reported the death to a fellow monk who reportedly went to the grave of Acacius and calling out "Brother are you dead?". It is said that Acacius called out "No, Father, how is it possible for an obedient man to die". The Elder who had abused Acacius repented and

lived in solitude in a cell near the grave. The story of Saint Acacius was used by Saint John Climacus in his book *The Ladder* as an example of obedience and endurance.

November 29: Unknown Monk – This figure has been translated as Saint Visarion but according to museum sources there is no saint by that name celebrated on November 29.

November 30: Saint Andrew the Apostle – Saint Andrew was the first Apostle to follow Christ and before that had been a disciple of John the Baptist. After the Descent of the Holy Spirit Saint Andrew went east preaching about Christ he traveled through Ancient Rus and then south east to the region that would become Byzantium. He was arrested in the city of Patra and condemned to be crucified on an x shaped cross.