

STROGANOV MINYEIAS

OCTOBER

Side A

Row 1



October 1: Protection of the Mother of God [written Intercession of the Mother of God] - This feast commemorates a vision of the Holy Fool Saint Andrew. The saint and his disciple Epiphanius were in a Constantinople Church when they saw a vision of the Mother of God coming through the Royal Doors in a procession with Angels, John the Baptist, and John the Evangelist. After praying for the souls of humanity the Mother of God laid her robe over the congregation of the church as a symbol of her protection over the faithful. On this feast the faithful commemorate the Mother of God as a protector and intercessor.

October 1: Saint Ananias was an early disciple of Christ and is mentioned in Acts 9:10. He was commanded by God to go to the house where Saul, later renamed Paul, was located and reverse his blindness. He was later martyred under orders of the prefect Lucian.

October 1: Saint Romanos the Melodist was a 5th century Christian and Deacon at the Church of the Mother of God at Kyrou. He was a well respected as an ascetic but was often teased for his poor singing voice. Saint Romanos was disturbed by this and spent many hours in fervent prayer on the matter. It is said that he had a vision of the Mother of God who handed him a scroll and commanded that he swallow it. From that moment forward he became renowned not just for his beautiful singing but also as a composer of hymns.

October 1: Saint Savva Stylite of Vishera [written Sabas] was a 15th century Christian who lived as an ascetic at a Monastery in Tver. He left there for a secluded place near the Vishera River. He established a monastery there in 1418. Saint Savva constructed a pillar and lived the rest of his life as a stylite, a lifestyle established by Saint Simeon (September 1) in which a faithful person lives in seclusion atop a pillar and practices extreme fasting.

October 2-: Saints Cyprian and Justina – Saint Justina was a 3rd Century Pagan converted to Christianity and was able to convince her parents to do the same. Cyprian was a Pagan Priest who was hired to corrupt Justina by means of a wealthy suitor. When he was unable to bewitch her Cyprian converted and became a priest and then a Bishop. Justina joined a monastery and became the Abbess. The two were arrested and martyred under Emperor Diocletian.

October 2: Saint Andrew the Holy Fool – Saint Andrew was a 10th century Christian from Constantinople. A Holy Fool or Fool-For-Christ is title given to those saints who were possibly unwell and exhibited erratic

behavior, in many cases the saint was merely acting this way as a form of asceticism. Saint Andrew pretended to be mentally ill and was mocked and treated poorly. He is best known for his vision of the Protection of the Mother of God (October 1)

October 3: Saint Dionysius and Those with Him - Saint Dionysius was Bishop of Alexandria in the 3rd century making him an important leader for Christians. He was martyred with his disciples in the year 254.

October 4: Saint Hierotheus – Saint Hierotheus was a 1st century Christian who is believed to have been converted by Saint Paul. He was the first bishop of Athens and, according to tradition, was present at the Dormition of the Mother of God.

October 4: Finding the Relics of Saint Gourias, Bishop of Kazan, and Saint Barsanuphius, Bishop of Tver. The graves of Saints Gourias and Barsanuphius were discovered in 1595 during excavation for the foundation of a new church. The remains were said to have been uncorrupted and to have produced myrrh (a fragrant liquid with miraculous properties).

October 5: Saint Charitine – Saint Charitine was a 3rd century Christian slave who was arrested for converting many people to Christianity under the reign emperor Diocletian. Her captors sought to dispel her faith in Christ and convert her back to Paganism. When she persistently refused she was killed and her body was thrown into the sea.



Row 2

October 5: Saint Mamelchtha [written Mamelta]- Saint Mamelchtha was a priestess to the god Artemis before she was converted to Christianity by her sister. Mamelchtha was baptized by the bishop of Persia and was sent home in her baptismal robe. She was spotted by pagans and subsequently stoned for her new faith.

October 5: Synaxis of the Metropolitans of Moscow Saints Peter, Alexis and Jonas - In 1596 the Patriarch, Job, decided to arrange a special day for the Metropolitans of Moscow to be celebrated as protectors of the city and of all Russia. Other saints were added to this feast in 1875, 1913 and in 2005. Each of the saints is also commemorated individually with their own feasts. The three are so important that they have multiple feasts: Saint Paul is December 21 and August 24; Saint Alexis is February 12 and May 20; and Saint Jonah is March 31, May 27, and June 15

October 6: Saint Thomas – Saint Thomas was a fisherman before joining Christ as one of the 12 apostles. He is widely known as 'Doubting Thomas' because he would not believe the others when they spoke of the resurrected Christ. Thomas was martyred in India where he had set up a church and was converting those who lived there to Christianity.

October 7: Saints Sergius and Bachus – Saints Sergius and Bachus were high ranking soldiers under emperor Maximian (284-305). They were denounced as Christians by their fellows and were ordered to celebrate the Pagan gods. When they refused they were made to walk the street in women's clothing and iron chains to be mocked. The two saints did not relent and were eventually put to death.

October 7: Saint Sergius the Obedient – Saint Sergius was a Greek monk who traveled to Russia to study under Saint Sergius of Radonezh. Years later the saint moved to the wilderness to practice asceticism. He built a small chapel with a single cell but over time he was joined by other monks and a larger church was constructed.

October 8: Saint Pelagia of Antioch – Saint Pelagia was very wealthy and owned many slaves. She lived a lavish lifestyle until she was converted to Christianity by Saint Nonnus, Bishop of Edessa. After her baptism she freed her slaves and gave each enough money to live on. She gave the remainder of her wealth to the church to be distributed to the needy. When this was done she departed to Jerusalem where she lived in seclusion and asceticism for many years.

October 9: Saint Iakovos (James) [written Iakov] – Saint James was a tax collector before joining Christ with his brother Matthew. He traveled with Saint Andrew First Called to preach the Gospel. He was arrested and crucified in Egypt.

October 9: Saints Andronikos and Athanasia - Saints Andronikos and Athanasia were married at the end of the 6th century. They had two children and the family was happy and prosperous until one day the children both died. Andronikos and his wife joined separate monasteries after that and did not see each other for many years. Athanasia decided to take a journey to visit holy sites and for her safety dressed as a monk. She and Andronikos met on the road but did not recognize each other. The two traveled as a pair and settled in the same cell at another monastery and lived together in silence until they both died together.

October 10: Saints Eulampius and Eulampia of Nikomedia – Saints Eulampius and Elampia were siblings living under the rule of Maximian (284-305) Eulampius was arrested and tortured for preaching Christianity. He refused to relent and is said to have miraculously destroyed a statue of Mars within its temple. Eulampia confessed herself as a Christian so as to be with her brother, she died under the torments and Eulampius was later beheaded.

October 10: Saint Bassian of Syria – Saint Bassian was a 5th century ascetic monk in Constantinople. He was well known as a healer and miracle worker.

October 11: Saint Philip – Saint Philip was one of seventy apostles appointed by Christ to travel ahead of Him to each city and town He would enter. After Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, Philip was appointed by the 12 apostles as one of seven deacons who were to care for the widowed, orphans, and needy. This Saint Philip should not be confused with Saint Philip of the 12 apostles.



Row 3

October 11: Saint Theophanes the Branded - Saint Theophanes was Bishop of Nicea in the 9th century. The Patriarch of Jerusalem sent Theophanes and his brother Theodore the Branded to Constantinople to confront Emperor Leo and other Iconoclasts who were banning the use of icons in worship. The two also spoke against Leo's successors, emperors Michael Balbos and Theophilus. They were arrested and punished many times in Constantinople, in one instance Theophilus ordered that an insult be tattooed on their foreheads.

October 11: Saint Philotheus Glushitski - This figure is labeled as Saint Philotheus Glushitski. There are many saints by the name of Philotheus but according to museum sources none are celebrated on October 21st

October 11: Saint Zenais – Saint Zenais was a cousin to Saint Paul the apostle. She and her sister Philonilla were philosophers and doctors from Tarsus of Cilicia. The two experimented with combining scientific healing with prayer. They traveled to the Felion Mountains where there were many healing springs. The doctors there refused to heal anyone who could not pay yet they charged exorbitant prices. The sisters built a small chapel and clinic in a small cave where they welcomed the poor and needy and did not charge for their services. They became renowned healers and preachers, their message of peace, serenity and charity earned them the title "Friends of Peace".

October 11: Commemoration of the Seventh Ecumenical Council – This feast is celebrated on the 11th only if it is a Sunday, otherwise it is celebrated on the following Sunday. The Seventh Ecumenical Council was held in 787 and was the second council to meet in Nicea. It was called to discuss the Iconoclast movement in which the creation and use of icons was banned and existing icons were destroyed. After much debate the council decreed that the use of icons was not idolatrous but that no image should be made of God the Father.

October 12: Saints Probus, Tarachus, and Andronikus – These three saints were Christian soldiers in the Roman army during the reign emperor Diocletian. At the end of their military career they sought to leave civilization behind and live together in the military; they were discovered, arrested, and ordered to offer sacrifices to the Pagan Gods. When the three refused to abandon their faith they were tortured and killed.

October 12: Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maiuma [written Kosma Maiumskiy] – Saint Cosmas was raised with Saint John of Damascus (December 4). He stood alongside Saint John to oppose the Iconoclasts who sought to ban the use of icons in worship and to destroy those that already existed. Cosmas was made a Bishop in 743.

October 13: Saint Carpus and Papyrus – These two were 3rd century Christians. Carpus was a Bishop and he was responsible of Papyrus who he had ordained as a Deacon. The two refused to participate in a pagan festival and were arrested with several others. They were punished and eventually martyred during the reign of Emperor Decius.



Row 4

October 14: Saints Nazarius, Gervasius, Celsius, and Protasius – These Saints were 1st Century Christians. Nazarius traveled teaching the Gospel and raising Celsius, a young boy entrusted to him. They met Gervasius and Protasius while in prison and the four were executed under the orders of Emperor Nero.

October 14: Saint Paraskeva the Younger of Serbia – Saint Paraskeva was an 11th century Christian who became a nun at 15. She lived the ascetic lifestyle in a desert for 10 years. She died at 27 and many miracles were reported to have happened at her grave and her body was said to have been incorrupt.

October 14 - Unknown Saints - These figures are labeled as Saint Cosmas Belaya and Saint Andronikos of Khren (possibly an abbreviation of Yakhromskaya). There are many saints that go by variations of those two names but none of them are celebrated on October 14. There is Saint Cosmas of Yakhrom (February 18) who is associated with the Mother of God Yakhromskaya which is celebrated on this day but there is no Andronikos involved in that story.

October 15: Saint Euthymius of Thessalonica – Saint Euthymius was a 9th century Christian from a wealthy family. His father died when the Saint was only 7 and the boy became the head of the household. His mother wished him to marry but when Saint Euthymius had a daughter with his wife he left his home in secret and joined a monastery and lived the ascetic lifestyle. He later established two monasteries on Mount Peristeros near Thessalonica.

October 15: Saint John of Suzdal – Saint John was a 14th century monk who was well known for helping the poor and needy. He became a Bishop in 1350 and convinced Prince Boris of Suzdal to lower taxes and to build poor houses and hospices. He died peacefully and many miracles were said to have happened at his grave.

October 15: Saint Lucian – Saint Lucien was a 3rd century Christian in Syria who was orphaned when he was just 12. Lucian became a monk and gave his sizable inheritance to the poor. He opened a Christian school in Antioch and worked to make a purer translation of the scriptures into Greek. He was arrested and martyred under the Emperor Diocletian. According to tradition his body was dumped in the ocean but was brought back to shore by dolphins.

October 16: Saint Longinus the Centurion – Saint Longinus is believed to have been the soldier who pierced the side of Christ with a spear at the crucifixion. He was also among those soldiers who witnessed the Resurrection. Longinus and his fellows became followers of Christ and left the military to preach the Gospel. They were all arrested and beheaded by other Roman soldiers. It is said that Pilate had the head of Longinus thrown on a rubbish heap where a blind woman happened upon it and was cured.

October 16: Unknown Saints - These three saints are labeled as Saints Leontios, Anthimos, and Efrepius who were martyred alongside saints Cosmas, Damian. This feast day is celebrated on October 17th. There is another Saint Leontios who was martyred alongside saints Dometios, Terence and Domninos, this feast day is celebrated on October 16th.

October 16: Unknown Saint - This figure is labeled as John Sreniskie who does not appear in Museum sources.

October 16: Saint Longinus of Yaranga the Wonderworker - There is very little information on this saint in Museum sources. He was a 16th century Christian who is also celebrated July 3rd. A wonderworker is a saint who is known for his or her miraculous acts such as healing. These miracles can take place while the saint is alive or be attributed to the relics (bodily remains).

Side B



Row 1

October 17: Prophet Hosea - Prophet Hosea one of the Minor Prophets, lived in Israel in the 9th century BCE. He preached righteous behavior and denounced the sins of his fellow Israelites. It is said that he was commanded by God to marry a promiscuous woman, and he continued to forgive her unfaithfulness and this is believed to be symbolic of God's continued forgiveness of Israel. Hosea foretold the coming of Christ and other events of the gospel. His prophecies are recorded in the book of Hosea in the Old Testament.

October 17: Saint Andrew of Crete – Saint Andrew was an 8th century ascetic monk who spoke out against the Iconoclasts of his day. At that time the practice of using icons in worship was banned and Christians were ordered to remove icons from their churches and homes. Those who resisted the emperor were arrested, tortured, and executed. Saint Andrew spoke against the Emperor in front of a large crowd in Constantinople and was arrested. His feet were removed and he died as he was being dragged through the streets to his public execution.

October 17: Saints Cosmas and Damian of Cilicia – Saints Cosmas and Damian were martyred alongside Leontius, Anthimus, and Eutropius under the emperors Diocletian. The two brothers had traveled preaching the gospel and performing miracles. They were arrested and cast into the sea to die. Cosmas and Damian survived the sea but were recaptured and beheaded with the three others.

October 17: Saint Lazarus of God – Saint Lazarus was the brother of Martha and Mary Magdalene and was said to have been raised from the dead by Jesus. He lived for an additional 30 years became bishop of Cyprus. Today celebrates the discovery of the relics (remains) of Lazarus which were transferred to the Church of Lazarus in Constantinople.

October 18: Saint Luke the Evangelist – Saint Luke, a physician from Antioch, was one of the 12 apostles of Christ. He wrote one of the 4 Gospels as well as the Book of Acts which describes the deeds of the apostles and of the first Christians. Saint Luke is also believed to have created the first icons of the Mother of God and to have created icons of Peter and Paul.

October 18: Unknown Saint - Much of the label for this figure is illegible what can be deciphered reads: "Arkadiy of Novgorod". We do not have any record of a saint from Novgorod being celebrated on October 18th.

October 19: Saint Dmitry of Uglich and his Nativity - Prince Dmitry Ivanovich was the youngest son of Ivan the Terrible and may have ascended to the throne over this childless half brother Feodor I and Boris Godunov his brother in law, Feodor's brother in law who also had a claim to the throne. Demetrius and his family were exiled to Uglich and on May 15, 1591. The 8 year old boy died under mysterious circumstances and is believed by some to have been assassinated. The prince is recognized as a saint and is celebrated on his birthday, (October 19), the anniversary of his death (May 15), and the anniversary of the transfer of his relics to Moscow (June 3).

October 19: Prophet Joel - Joel is one of the 12 Minor Prophets and is believed to have foretold coming of Christ and Judgment Day. His book is dated to about 835 BCE and is referenced to in the New Testament Books Acts, Romans, and Revelation.

October 19: Saint Varus - Varus was a 4th century Christian living in Egypt. He was a highly decorated military commander and kept his faith hidden. Varus would bring food and comfort to Christian prisoners and spent a night talking with 7 monks who had been sentenced to death. On the day of their execution Varus declared himself a Christian and suffered alongside them.



Row 2

October 19: Saint Sadoth – Saint Sadoth was a 4th century Christian living in Persia. He served as deacon to Bishop Simeon Barsavae and represented him at the Synod of Nicaea (325). Saint Sadoth was arrested for preaching the Gospel alongside 128 other Christians. The king of Persia attempted by means of threats and bribes to dissuade them from keeping their faith however none were convinced and all were executed.

October 19: Saint John of Rila – Saint John was a 10th century ascetic from Bulgaria who lived in the wilderness of Mount Rila. He became known to other Christians as a Holy Man and a healer. A group of disciples gathered around him and a small monastery was established. Saint John died peacefully and was buried in a cave by his disciples. His remains were exhumed sometime later and were said to have been found to be incorrupt.

October 20: Saint Artemius – Saint Artemius was a 4th century Christian and military leader. He served Constantine the Great and his son Constantius. He was sent on a mission to find and retrieve the relics of Saint Luke. Later in life Saint Artemius spoke out publically against Emperor Julian (361-363) whose attempted social reforms included the return of Paganism. Saint Artemius was arrested, imprisoned and eventually martyred.

October 20: Saint Cleopatra - Saint Cleopatra and her son John are listed here on October 20th however according to museum sources they are officially celebrated on October 19th. Cleopatra was a follower of Saint Varus (October 19), when he was martyred she took his body in secret to be buried by her house. When her son, a military officer, was killed she prayed at the grave of Varus for his return but was instead visited by a vision of the holy man and her son in glory. Cleopatra buried her son next to Varus and built a small church above them.

October 21: Saint Hilarion the Great – Saint Hilarion was a 3rd century Palestinian from a wealthy family. He was sent to grammar school in Alexandria where he studied philosophy and was eventually converted to Christianity. He heard of an ascetic saint named Anthony of Egypt and traveled to learn about his lifestyle and faith. Hilarion resolved to become an ascetic himself and left to live near the village of his parents; it was then that he learned that his parents had died leaving him a great inheritance. He distributed his wealth amongst the needy and moved out to the wilderness. He became a well known healer and was said to have the ability to cast out demons.

October 21: Saint Hilarion Bishop of Meglin (Bulgaria) – Saint Hilarion was a 12th century monk who argued against a movement now called the Bogomil Heresy which was a complex movement that included: a rejection of hierarchy and government, performing rituals outdoors and without a cross, and a dualistic belief that Satan created the Earth and attempted to create man but needed God to complete this with a soul.

October 21: Unknown Martyr - This figure is labeled as Saint Lazarus. There are many saints by that name but according to museum sources none are celebrated on October 21st.

October 22: Saint Abercius Bishop of Hieropolis – Saint Abercius was a 2nd century Christian who, in an attempt to convert people, destroyed many idols in a pagan temple. Guards attempted to arrest him in a crowded area but as they arrived he healed three youths who were said to be possessed. He was then under protection of the witnesses, all of whom converted to Christianity. Saint Abercius traveled throughout the region for many years performing miracles and preaching the gospel.

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

authorities realized who he was. The seven were visited by many including the emperor but they soon lay back down and fell asleep. Traditionally October 22nd is the anniversary of the day they awoke; there is a second feast day on August 4th for the day that they first fell asleep.

October 22: Commemoration of the icon Mother of God Kazanskaya - In 1612 the icon was brought out of Kazan and brought into battle against the Polish Army who were holding Moscow. The Russian forces were successful in liberating the city which was attributed to the Mother of God. This icon is also celebrated on July 8th. The icon is pictured above the scene of the Seven Sleepers emerging from their cave.

October 23: Saint James the Apostle – Saint James, one of the 12 apostles, was the son of Saint Joseph from his first wife making him half brother to Christ. He was the first one called to follow Christ and later became Bishop of Jerusalem. He was accused of inciting rebellion by preaching the gospel and was stoned to death.

October 23: Discovery of the Relics of Saint James of Borovichi - Little is known about this saint's life except that he was a "Fool for Christ", an extreme version of asceticism in which the person appears to be simple-minded or even mentally ill. In 1540 the remains of Saint James encased in ice washed upon the shores of the village Borovichi. The townspeople pushed it back into the water three times and three times it returned. Saint James appeared in a vision to the town elders and explained who he was. His relics were brought to a nearby church and said to have brought about many miraculous healings.



Row 3

October 24: Saint Arethas and those with Him – Saint Arethas was a 6th century Christian in the city Najran in Arabia. The king at that time, Dunaan, decided to eradicate Christianity from his kingdom and issued an edict that anyone who did not renounce their faith would be put to the death. Saint Arethas fought against him and was arrested and put to death with over 4000 others.

October 24: Saint Athanasius of Constantinople – Saint Athanasius was Patriarch of Constantinople from 1289-1293 and again from 1303-1311. He was a well known ascetic and wonderworker and for that reason was elected to the Patriarchate in 1289 but some of his more controversial policies prompted his forced resignation in 1293. He was reinstated in 1303 but was again unable to hold the position and resigned again in 1311. Museum sources differ on the day of his celebration some sources have the day on October 24 which is in line with this icon while others place it on October 28.

October 24: Saint Elesbaan King of Ethiopia – Saint Elesbaan opposed the persecution of Christians by King Dunaan of Arabia and declared war against him. Saint Elesbaan was successful after many battles and killed Dunaan. It is said that after the war he abdicated the throne, gave his crown to the Holy Sepulcher Church in Jerusalem, and became a hermit.

October 24: Unknown Martyr - This figure is labeled as Saint Alexander. There are many saints by that name but according to museum sources none are celebrated on October 24th

October 25: Saints Marcian and Martyrius – These two saints were notaries of Patriarch Paul the Confessor and served in the cathedral of Constantinople until followers of the Arian movement overthrew Paul and had him secretly executed. Saints Marcian and Martyrius were first bribed and then threatened to follow the Arian beliefs but refused and were eventually executed as well.

October 25: Unknown Saint - This figure is labeled as Saint Abraham. There are many saints by that name but according to museum sources none are celebrated on October 25th

October 26: Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica – Saint Demetrius was born into a wealthy and powerful Roman family at the end of the 3rd century. His parents were Christians and had Demetrius secretly baptized. When emperor Maximian ascended to the throne in 305 Demetrius had reached adulthood and his father had died. He was given his father's position of proconsul, which entrusted the cities protection to the young commander. Demetrius used his position to convert people to Christianity; for this he was arrested and eventually executed.

October 27: Saint Nestor – Saint Nestor was a follower of Saint Demetrius (October 26). When Demetrius was arrested the emperor declared that there would be games at the arena in Thessalonica and any Christian willing to fight for his God could come forth and face the champion in a fight to the death. Nestor sought the blessing of Demetrius before entering the arena which he attributed to his success. The emperor was enraged that his champion was defeated and Nestor was arrested. He was martyred alongside Saint Demetrius.

October 27: Saints Capitolina and Erotheis – Saint Capitolina was a wealthy noblewoman from Cappadocia, in the year 289 she freed her slaves, including Saint Erotheis, and gave all of her wealth to the poor. She then went before the Governor and declared herself to be a Christian. She was immediately arrested and sentenced to beheading; as she was taken away Saint Erotheis threw rocks at the governor and denounced his actions. Both saints were martyred together.

October 28: Saints Terence and Neonilla – Saints Terence and his wife Neonilla were martyred together with their children under the reign of the Emperor Decius.

October 28: Saint Stephen the Savvaite and Melodist – Saint Stephen was an ascetic monk in Palestine. He was said to have performed many miracles during his lifetime including taming wild animals and bringing water forth from solid rock. He is also a well known hymnographer and ecclesiastical poet.



Row 4

October 28: Saint Paraskeva of Iconium [written Paraskoviya] – Saint Paraskeva was born to a wealthy Christian family in the 3rd Century. Her name, which means Friday, was given to her in honor of the Crucifixion of Christ. Paraskeva spoke openly of Christianity as she grew older and attempted to convert others to her faith.

October 28: Saint Arsenius of Serbia – Saint Arsenius was a 13th century monk. He studied under the ascetic Saint Sava (celebrated on January 14) and rose in the ranks at the monastery and was eventually named as Sava's successor.

October 28: Saint Cyriacus Patriarch of Jerusalem – Saint Cyriacus aided Empress Helen in her quest to find the True Cross.

October 29: Saint Anastasia of Rome – Saint Anastasia was a 3rd century Roman nun who practiced the ascetic life style. She was arrested, tortured, and beheaded for her faith. Saint Anastasia received martyrdom for her sacrifice.

October 29: Saint Abraham the Hermit of Mesopotamia – Saint Abraham was an ascetic in a village near Edessa. When his parents died the young Abraham gave his inheritance to the poor and left to live in the wilderness as a hermit. After many years in the wilderness Abraham moved to a small pagan village and worked to convert the people to Christianity.

October 29: Saint Abramius of Rostov – Saint Abramius of Rostov was a Christian ascetic monk. He lived a constant life of prayer and toil for the benefit of the community. Saint Abramius baptized many pagans after building a church named for John the Theologian.

October 30: Saints Zenobius and Zenobia – Saint Zenobius, Bishop of Aegae, and his sister Saint Zenobia suffered a martyr's death in 285 in Cilicia. They spread Christian faith zealously among pagans and were both tortured and beheaded for not renouncing their faith.

October 30: Saint Stephen, King of Serbia – Saint Stephen Miliutin the King of Serbia defended by word and deed the Orthodox Serbs and other Orthodox citizens from their enemies. He built more than forty churches and many monasteries in his lifetime.

October 31: Saints Stachys, Amplias, Urban, Narcissus, and Aristoboulos – These are five of the saints included in the Apostles of the Seventy, which is commemorated on the 4th of January. Saint Stachys was the Bishop of Byzantium and Saint Aristoboulos was the Bishop of Britain these two and the others were all martyred for spreading Christianity.

October 31: Saint Epimachus of Alexandria – Saint Epimachus was an Egyptian who lived in seclusion on Mount Peleusium. When he learned of Christian persecution in Alexandria in 250 CE, he went to the area began preaching of Christianity and destroying pagan idols. For this Epimachus was arrested, tortured, and eventually beheaded. While being tortured a drop of his blood landed in a blind woman's eye. Her sight was fully restored and she immediately converted to Christianity.

October 31: Saint Maura of Constantinople – Saint Maura was a 5th century ascetic in Constantinople. She founded a monastery there where she practiced strict fasting and prayer for the remainder of her life.