

STROGANOV MINYEIAS

SEPTEMBER

Side A

Row 1



September 1: Beginning of the Indiction or the Liturgical New Year. The official church calendar begins in September. According to Tradition it was on the 1st of September that Christ: entered the Synagogue in Nazareth and read from the book of Isaiah "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me/Because He has anointed Me/To preach the gospel to the poor..." He then said to the people "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," proclaiming His mission for mankind. (Luke 4:16). This was the moment that Jesus first declared Himself as the Savior and was subsequently rejected and mocked by the people who knew him from childhood.

September 1: Saint Simeon the Stylite was a monk in the 5th century who was known for practicing extreme asceticism, fasting and self denial. It is said he abstained from all food and water for the duration of Great Lent. Simeon was the first Saint to live atop a pillar which he continued to build over the course of 47 years descending only on occasion. The tower was reputed to be 80 feet tall by the time of his death and had become a pilgrimage site to Christians seeking guidance and inspiration from the Monk.

September 1: Saint Martha, the Mother of Simeon the Stylite, searched for her son for many years after he left home in secret to become a Monk. She heard tales of him when he became well known and journeyed to him so as to live in prayer and silence at the bottom of his pillar. Simeon had refused to come down to her or to allow her to join him believing that they would have time together in the next life. She died at the tower and was buried at its base.

September 1: Commemoration of the recovery of the Icon of the Mother of God at the Miasenes Monastery [written Miasinsky]. The icon was thrown into Lake Zagourou [written Azurov] during the iconoclastic period of the 9th century. It was recovered unharmed after several decades and returned to the Monastery. The icon is shown three times in the scene: first being pulled from the water, then being held by a Priest, and finally taken to the monastery by two monks at the head of a large religious procession.:

September 1: Saint Aethalios [written Aifal] of Persia was a Deacon who was put to death for his faith under order of the Emperor Sapor the II in the year 380. Christians were able to take the body of Aethalios and give him a proper burial, it is said that a miraculous tree grew over his grave and many people were healed from its fruit. Saint Aethalios is also celebrated on November 3.

September 1: Saint Ammun, a Deacon from Macedonia, was teacher and spiritual leader to 40 women. He and his students were punished harshly for their faith and were eventually put to death for their stark refusal to offer sacrifice to the Pagan Gods.

September 1: Forty Women Martyrs [written Virgins]. These women represent the forty unnamed women who were under the guidance of Saint Ammun and who were martyred alongside him.

September 1: Saint Kallista with her brothers Saints Evodos and Hermogenes [written Evod and Ermogen] were killed among many other Christians of Nicomedia. Little is known of their lives only that they were brought before the Pagan governor, refused to renounce their faith, and were subsequently killed. Saint Kallista is shown standing behind her brothers.



Row 2

September 1: Joshua (Jesus) Son of Navi [written Jesus Navvin] and the Great Fire of the Imperial City. Saint Joshua succeeded Moses as leader of the Israelites; he conquered the Holy Land and divided it between the Twelve Tribes. The tales of his deeds are told in the Book of Joshua which is part of the Old Testament. This feast commemorates the fall of Jericho which was destroyed after the Ark was carried around it each day for seven days.:

September 2: Saint Mamas [written Mamant] was arrested at the age of 15 for converting his classmates to Christianity. He is popularly known as a hermit with a close affinity with wild animals. It is said that the Romans threw him to lions to be killed but they would not attack and so he was killed by a Temple Priest. Mamas was buried in a nearby cave after his execution and many miracles were reported to have happened there.

September 2: Saint John the Faster [written John Postnik] was Patriarch of Constantinople from 582 to 595. He is best known for compiling instructions for hearing confession and giving penance.

September 3:: Saint Anthimos of Nicomedia [written Anfim] was a bishop in the early 4th century. He was martyred, along with many other Christians, under the rule of Emperor Diocletian or Maximian. Sources are unclear of the date of Anthimus's execution.

September 3: Saint Theoktistos of Palestine [written Feoktist] was a monk in the 5th century. He lived a strictly ascetic life with his lifelong companion Saint Euthymius the Great.

September 4: Saint Babylas [written Vavila], was Bishop of Antioch under the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251). The emperor, curious about Christianity, attempted to enter a church. Decius was barred by

Babylas who feared the emperor would desecrate the sanctuary. The Bishop was consequently arrested and martyred alongside his students Saints Urban, Prilidian, Epolonius, Christodoula, and others. In this icon he is pictured with several smaller figures dressed in white. These represent his students who were young and innocent.

September 4: Saint Babylas of Nicomedia [written Vavila] was martyred, along with 84 disciples, under emperor Maximian (284-305). The other Saints, who were offered gifts and wealth to renounce their faith, are represented on this icon as smaller figures.:

September 4: The Prophet Moses is perhaps the best known figure from the Old Testament. His life story is told in the books Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. He is especially noted for having led the Hebrews out of Egypt and guiding them through the desert towards the Holy Land. Moses is believed to have authored the first five books of the Old Testament and is pictured here holding the stone tablets which were said to be inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

September 5: The Prophet Zachariah, father of John the Baptist, was a priest in the Temple at Jerusalem and was childless until he reached old age.: He was approached by an angel that announced the birth of a son. He doubted the truth of his vision and was rendered speechless until the child was born.: His wife Elizabeth, aunt of the Mother of God, took the child into hiding in the desert when Herod began killing all children under the age of two. Zachariah was arrested, and consequently killed, when he refused to admit the location of his wife and son.:

September 5: The Murder of Prince Gleb was orchestrated by his older brother Svyatopolk who also arranged to have another brother, Boris, killed at the same time. This was done to secure his place on the throne of their father Prince Vladimir the Great. Saint Gleb was killed by assassins while he was traveling by boat, his body was exhumed 5 years later in 1020 and was reburied with his brother Boris. Saints Boris and Gleb were the first Russian Martyrs and are also celebrated together on May 2 and July 24.

September 6: The Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Chonae. A group of pagans sought to destroy the Church of the Archangel Michael in Hierapolis that was built over a healing spring by diverting a nearby river. The Archangel appeared and saved the church by opening a fissure within a large rock for the water to flow. The place was renamed Chonae which means "plunging."



Row 3

September 6 Saint Evdoxios [written Evdoksiy] was martyred under Emperor Maximian Galerius with Saints Romylos, Zenon, Makarios and others. He was a high ranking military commander who resigned his position when the emperor began persecuting Christians and was consequently arrested, tortured, and killed.

September 6: Saint Archippus [written Arkhipp] became caretaker of the Church of the Archangel Michael in Hierapolis (renamed Chonae) at the age of 10. When Pagans threatened to destroy it he stayed within the building and prayed. The church was saved by the Archangel Michael and this miracle is also celebrated on September 6 and is featured in Row 2 of this icon.

September 7: Saint Sozon [written Sozont] was a shepherd who preached the Gospel as he traveled with his flock. He was arrested and subsequently martyred after smashing a golden idol and distributing the gold amongst the poor.

September 7: Saint John the Wonderworker was archbishop of Novgorod in the 12th century. At that time Novgorod was attacked by Prince Svyatoslav of Suzdal. Saint John had an icon of the Mother of God carried to the walls during the siege and it was struck by an arrow and the Mother began to weep. The Suzdal forces were then covered in darkness and fled in terror.

September 8: Nativity of Mary. The Mother of God was born to Saints Anna and Joachim who were elderly and childless. Her conception and birth were announced to her parents by the Archangel Gabriel and they decided to dedicate her to the Temple. Anna and Joachim are celebrated on September 9th.

September 9: Saints Joachim and Anna were the parents of Mary Mother of God. They were successful farmers who gave a third of their earnings to the poor, a third to the temple, and lived on the remainder. Despite their prosperity and good deeds the two were ostracized in their community when they were unable to have children. They did eventually have a daughter, Mary Mother of God, whose birth is celebrated on September 8th.

September 9: Saint Severianos [written Sevirian] was a high ranking official from Sebaste under the reign of emperor Licinius the last roman emperor to persecute Christians. He was punished and later martyred after he was found giving aid to persecuted Christian soldiers.:

September 9: Saint Joseph of Volokolmask , 15th century, was educated at the Monastery: of the Exaltation of the Cross in Volokolmask. He left there to study asceticism under the Elder Barsanuphius in Tver and then under Saint Paphnitus of Borov Monastery. Later in life he established a monastery in Volokolmask dedicated to the Dormition.

September 9: Saint Paphnitus [written Pafnuti] Saint Paphnitus is celebrated on May 1 and it is uncertain why he is depicted here. It may be due to his strong connection with Saint Joseph of Volokolmask.

September 10: Holy Martyrs Minodora, Mitrodora, and Nymfodora were three sisters who were martyred under the Emperor Maximian.

September 11: Saint Theodora of Alexandria was a 5th century woman who is said to have been unfaithful to her husband and, feeling guilty, ran away to live in a monastery disguised as a man. She was later accused of impregnating the daughter of the igumen (head) of a monastery she had visited. She was made to raise the child, first in the wild, and then in a cell at the monastery. When she died the monks discovered her true gender and innocence.

September 12: Saint Autonomus Bishop of Italy [written Avtonom] was martyred under Emperor Diocletian. A church was constructed over his tomb under the reign of Saint Constantine. The tomb was forgotten until the end of the 5th century when his relics were discovered and were said to have been incorrupt (not decomposed).



Row 4

September 13: Saint Cornelius the Centurion [Written Corniliy the Sotnik] was a pagan who is mentioned in Acts 10:1 as being devout and pious. He received a vision from an angel telling him to send for the Apostle Peter. It was through Cornelius that Peter discovered that he and the other Christians should be preaching the Gospel to Gentiles and Jews alike.

September 13: The Consecration of the Church of Resurrection in Jerusalem [written Reconsecration of the Church of Resurrection]. The church was under the direction of Empress Helen and her son Constantine. The Church reportedly encompassed the site of the crucifixion, called Golgotha, as well as the tomb in which Christ was buried.

September 14: Exaltation of the True Cross. Saint Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, traveled to the Holy Land to find the cross on which Christ was crucified. It is said that she excavated three crosses from an area near Golgotha. To determine which was the true cross, each was placed over a dead man. He was brought back to life and the cross was raised high so that all could see. Helen took part of the cross and the nails back with her to Constantine.

September 14: Saint John Chrysostom is officially celebrated on November 13th and again with the other Hierarchs on January 30th. His repose, or death, is commemorated on September 14.

September 15: Saint Nikita, a Goth, was a 4th century Christian. At that time there was civil war between the Christians under Fritigern and the Pagans under Athanaric. The pagans were victorious for a time and Nikita was punished and martyred when he refused to renounce his faith.

Side B



Row 1

September 16: Saint Ephemias [written Evfimiya] was martyred for her faith in 304 under the governor Priscus in Chaceldon. The governor had her set to be executed in many terrible ways but in each instance she was miraculously saved. She was finally killed by a bear in an arena.

September 16: Saint Cyprian was made Metropolitan of Kiev and all Russia by Patriarch Philotheus of Constantinople in 1375. He is best known for his work on translating liturgical literature into Slavonic.

September 17: Saint Sophia with her daughters Faith, Love, and Hope [traditionally the daughters are listed Faith, Hope, and Love] were 2nd century Christians who were arrested under the emperor Hadrian. Sophia was made to watch the martyrdom of her daughters and was then permitted to bury them. She sat at their graves for several days until she too perished.

September 18: Saint Eumenius was Bishop of Gortyna, on the island of Crete, in the 7th century. He is said to have worked many wonders including destroying a dragon through prayer and ending a persistent drought.

September 18: This figure is labeled as **Saint Simeon**. There are many known saints by the name of Simeon but according to our sources none are celebrated on this day. The true identity of the figure remains unclear.:

September 19 Saints Trophimus, Savvatius, and Dorymedon were martyred under the emperor Probus (276-282) when they refused to participate in a Pagan festival.

September 19 Saint Theodore Prince of Yaroslavl and his sons David and Constantine [Labeled as Princes David and Michael, which could possibly be in reference to Theodore's eldest son who is not recognized as a saint and is not traditionally depicted with his father or half brothers]. Prince Theodore was born during the Mongol invasion of Rus 1237-1239. Saint Theodore was born in the 13th Century and married into the principedom of Yaroslavl. After the death of his wife, Saint Theodore fought in many battles for the Golden Horde and married Khan's daughter Anna. They had two sons, David and Constantine, and returned to Yaroslavl.



Row 2

September 20: Saints Efstathius and Theopista and their sons Agapius and Theopistius. Saint Efstathius was high ranking military commander in Rome. He received a vision of Christ while on a hunt and converted to Christianity with his family. They were martyred together under Emperor Hadrian after refusing to participate in a Pagan festival.

September 20: Saints Michael Prince of Chernigov and his close friend Theodore, a Boyar, were martyred under the orders of Batu Khan (1207-1255) when they refused to participate in Mongol rituals.

September 21: Saint Quadratus was a disciple of the Apostles and was made Bishop of Athens. He converted many people to Christianity before being martyred under the reign of Hadrian Aelius (117-138).

September 22: Saint Phocas, Bishop of Sinope, was a 2nd century Christian who was martyred under the Emperor Trajan. It is said that the saint worked many healings and miracles both before and after his death. He is not to be confused with Phocas the Gardener of Sinope who is celebrated on the same day.

September 22: The Prophet Jonah lived in the 8th Century BCE and is one of the Minor Prophets. He is said to have heard the voice of God urging him to go to Nineveh and preach repentance. Jonah fled from the voice and was swallowed whole by a whale. He eventually did make it to Nineveh and convinced the people to change their ways and avoid destruction.

September 22: Saint Jonah was 9th century Christian who had two sons who each became saints. Saint Jonah joined a monastery after the death of his wife and lived as an ascetic.:

September 23: Conception of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was born to the Prophet Zachariah and Elizabeth who were elderly and had no children. Zachariah was serving as priest in the Temple and entered the Sanctuary to light incense. He was approached by the Archangel Gabriel who said "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." Zachariah doubted the angel's words and became speechless until the day his son was born.



Row 3

September 24: Saint Thekla [written Thecla] was an apostle of Saint Paul. She left her fiancé to follow him but was arrested and sentenced to death. A great storm came and put out the fire that had been set to her and Thekla escaped. She traveled with Paul and his apostles for a time preaching the Gospel. In her old age, Thekla settled in a remote region and healed the sick.

September 24: Saint Sergius of Radonezh was born in the 14th century and had a great deal of difficulty learning to read. He prayed for help and one day came upon an elderly monk who gave him communion and prayed over him. From that day forward the boy could read remarkably well and proved to be intelligent. Saint Sergius became a monk and founded the monastery now known as Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, one of the most famous spiritual centers in Russia.

September 24: Repose of Saint Sergius of Radonezh. Saint Sergius died on September 25 1392 and so is celebrated on the 25th and again on July 5th which is the day his relics were discovered. It is not clear why then he is pictured on September 24.

September 25: Saint Ephrosyne of Alexandria was born in 410 to wealthy parents. She was betrothed to a nobleman but longed for monastic life. She left home without her father's permission and, disguised as a man, joined a nearby monastery where she became well known for her spiritual accomplishments.

September 25: Saint Ephrosyne Princess of Suzdal, also known as Saint Theodoulia [written Feodosiya] was born in 1212. She was betrothed to marry a Prince but he died before the wedding and she opted to join a monastery. She was tonsured under the name Ephrosyne, in honor of Saint Ephrosyne of Alexandria.

September 26: Saint John the Theologian, author of one of the Gospels of the New Testament, was with Christ at the Crucifixion. It was then that Christ commanded him to care for Mary as if she was his own mother. After the Dormition of the Mother of God, John was sent to preach the Gospel with his disciple Prochorus in the area of present day Turkey.:

September 27 Saint Kallistratos [written Callistratus] was a soldier in the Roman army and was denounced as a Christian. He refused to participate in pagan rituals and was punished for it. He withstood the tortures and 49 other soldiers listened to his words and converted to Christianity. They were arrested and eventually martyred alongside Kallistratos.:



Row 4

September 28: Saint Chariton was a Christian under the rule of Emperor Aurelian. He denounced the Pagan gods and was punished but was not killed. He lived the ascetic lifestyle and founded three separate monasteries in his lifetime.

September 28: Repose of Saint Chariton. Near the end of his life Saint Chariton retired to a cave near one of his monasteries to live a life of solitude, though he was visited often by those seeking spiritual guidance. He died at a very old age and was buried in one of his monasteries.

September 29: Saint Kyriakos the Hermit [written Cyriacus the Anchorite] became a monk when he was just 18. He sought to live a strict ascetic lifestyle. He left his monastery for a more secluded one when the peaceful atmosphere was replaced with politics and scandals. When he was 70 he went into the wilderness and lived as a hermit with his disciple.

September 29: Saint Evfimi the Great. As of yet museum researchers have not found any information on this Saint.

September 29: Saints Dada, Gobdelaha, and Saint Kasdoa. Dada was the Chief Steward and then a Governor under the Persian Emperor Sapor. When he was denounced as a Christian he was arrested and punished. The Emperors children Gobdelaha and Kasdoa were converted by Dada and confessed their faith. They too were arrested and tortured and the three were eventually martyred.:

September 30: Saint Gregory Bishop of Aermenia was a 3rd century Christian who was arrested and punished under Emperor Tiridates of Armenia. He spent 14 years in a pit where he was fed bread in secret by another Christian. The king killed 35 Christian women and his face became severely disfigured. Saint Gregory was released and convinced the king to repent and convert to Christianity. The king's face was healed and churches were built all across Armenia.

September 30: Saint Gregory of Bologda was orphaned at the age of 15. He gave his parents' wealth to the poor and joined a monastery. He became friends with Saint Dionysius, who painted icons for Gregory when he founded his own monastery in 1426 .