

Champions of the Faith

Supplemental Materials

Ages 8 - 12



Saint Images and Stories for Lesson Two: Families of Saints

St. Helen



- Was an example of Christianity to her son
- Made holy places important again by repairing them and protecting them
- Discovered the Cross of Christ

Constantius Chlorus

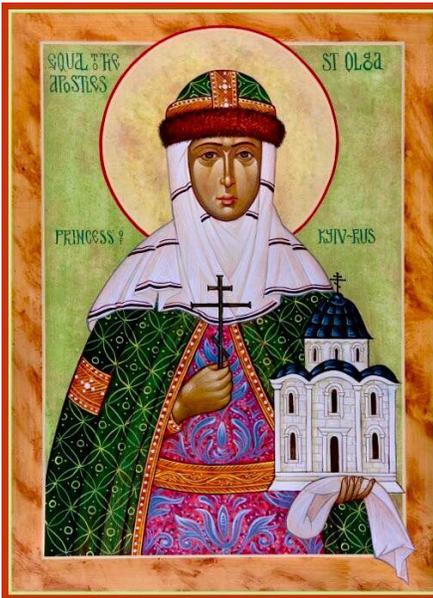


St. Constantine



(Son of Helen)

- Protected Christians in the Roman Empire
- Built Churches and took care of the poor
- Was baptized a Christian



St. Boris



St. Gleb





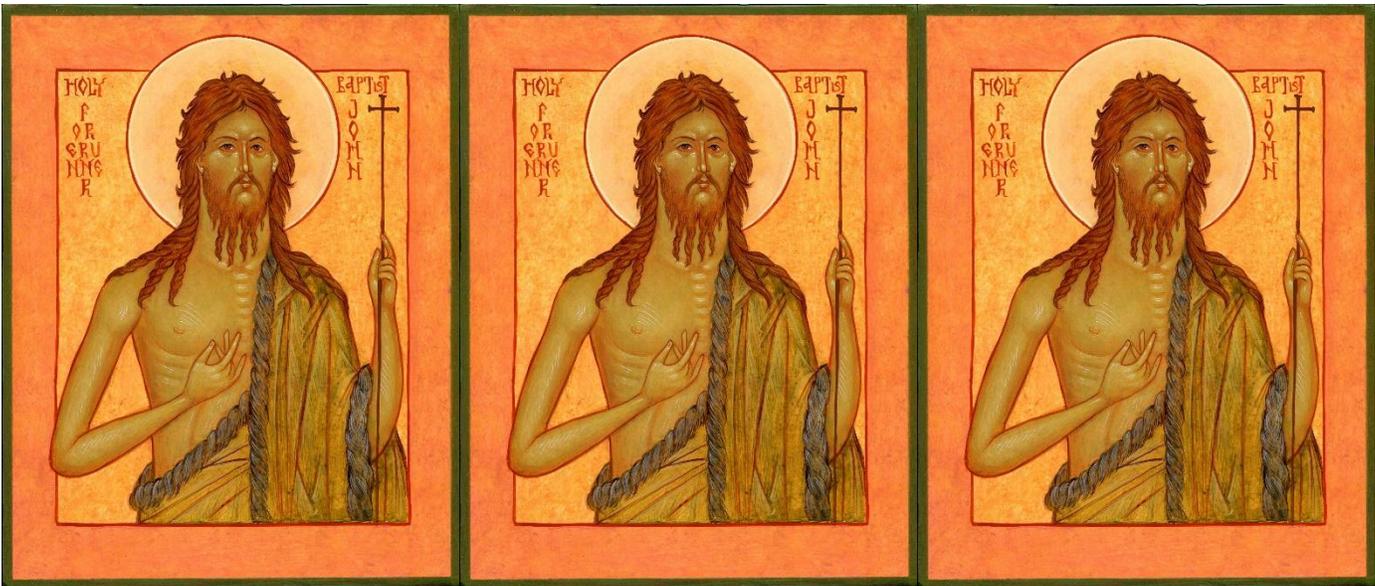
The Holy Family of St. Basil: (left to right, first row) St. Peter of Sebaste, St. Basil the Great, St. Basil, St. Gregory, (second row) St. Theosebia, St. Naucratus, St. Emmelia, (top) St. Macrina

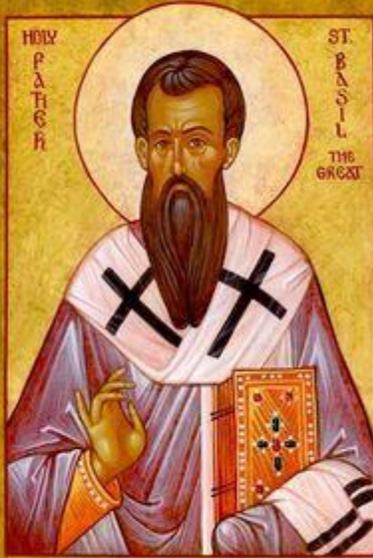
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Zacharias and Elizabeth







ST. BASIL THE ELDER



ST. BASIL THE GREAT



ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA



ST. MACRINA THE ELDER



ST. EMMILIA



ST. MACRINA THE YOUNGER



ST. PETER OF SEBASTE



ST. NAUKRATIOS



ST. THEOSIBIA OF NYSSA



St. Cosmos



St. Damian

St. Olga (Ol'ha)

Saint Olga lived in Kievan Rus in the 10th century and was married to a prince named Igor. When Igor was killed, their son Svyatoslav was too young to rule, so saint Olga was given the power of the throne until he became of age. Olga was a strong ruler, known as “Olga the Wise,” who protected her land and was respected around the world. When she learned about Christianity, probably on a visit to Constantinople, Olga knew that following Christ was what was best for her kingdom. Saint Olga was baptized a Christian and when Svyatoslav was old enough to take the throne, she begged him to convert the kingdom to Christianity. He did not agree to become a Christian, but Saint Olga was able to have more influence on her grandson, Vladimir (or Volodymyr). By teaching him about Christianity, Saint Olga would help to convert many people in the kingdom in the future. For her efforts, Saint Olga is called “Equal to the Apostles.”

Tropar Tone 1: Having fixed your mind with the wings of divine understanding, you flew to the One Who surpasses visible creation. Having found God, the Creator of All, you received rebirth through Baptism. Ever Glorious Olga, you satisfied yourself with the tree of life and abide forever incorrupt.

Saint Vladimir (Volodymyr) (Taken from A Daily Calendar of Saints by Fr. Lawrence Farley)

He knew of the Christian faith from his grandmother Olga but continued to be a pagan. In 980 he became the prince of Kievan Rus and had to decide how best to rule his people and guide them among the other nations and which religion would be best for them. His ambassadors went abroad to examine the religions of other nations and those from Constantinople brought back word that the worship there was so overwhelming that they “did not know whether they were on earth or in heaven.” “There,” among the Christians, they said, “we know God dwells among men. We cannot forget that beauty.” They also pointed out the Christian faith of his grandmother Olga. This counsel [advice] worked in his heart and he thus decided to convert in 988. He proposed to the emperor of Constantinople that his sister Anna marry [Vladimir] and that Rus be allied with Byzantium. Thus Vladimir traveled to Kherson to be baptized by the bishop there. When he returned home, he announced to his people that all should join him as Christians. He destroyed their idols, including the dreaded idol Perun, which he threw into the Dnieper River. This act greatly impressed the people and the hold of the old religion was broken. Many were then baptized in the Dnieper River, after which Vladimir began the task of converting his entire country. He furthered literacy and sent clergy throughout the country to preach to all. He himself changed from being a fierce warrior to a person who was also concerned for the poor and needy. He died in peace in 1015, the enlightener of the land of Rus.

Tropar (Tone 4): Seated on the lofty throne of Kyiv, the mother of cities saved by God, you emulated the merchant who sought the precious pearl, Volodymyr glorious in might. In examining and sending emissaries to the imperial city to learn about the Orthodox Faith, you found Christ, the Priceless Pearl, who chose you as a second Paul. In the holy font He removed your physical and spiritual blindness.

Therefore, we, your people, celebrate your repose. Pray that Kyiv, your land be saved and that peace and great mercy be granted to Orthodox people.

Saints Boris and Gleb (Hleb)

Saints Boris and Gleb were sons of Saint Vladimir. They had several other siblings and as Saint Vladimir was becoming too old to rule the kingdom, he split the land into several pieces for each of his sons to take care of. His oldest son Svyatopolk was angry and jealous and wanted more power than the others, no matter the cost. He sent some of his men to kill Boris and Gleb so that he could take over their lands. It wasn't a secret that Svyatopolk wanted to take over, and other people encouraged Boris to fight him in battle to become the main ruler. Boris said that he would never act violently towards his brother and didn't want to start a war in which others would be killed. When he received a message that the men were coming, Boris began to pray to God asking that He give Boris strength and that He forgive Svyatopolk. Svyatopolk tried to trick Gleb into coming to visit him by sending a message that said Vladimir wanted to see him. While traveling, Gleb learned that Vladimir had died and that Svyatopolk had killed Boris, but it was too late. Boris and Gleb died as martyrs, and are called Passion-bearers because they defended their Christian faith without violence.

Troparion (Tone 2): Righteous passion-bearers and true fulfillers of the Gospel of Christ, Chaste Boris and guileless Gleb, You did not resist the attacks of your brother, the enemy, When he killed your bodies but could not touch your souls. Therefore, let the evil lover of power mourn While you rejoice with the angels standing before the Holy Trinity. Pray that those who honor your memory may be pleasing to God, And that all Orthodox Christians may be saved.

Saint Zachariah (Zacharias) & Saint Elizabeth

Holy Prophet Zachariah and Saint Elizabeth were the parents of Saint John the Baptist. Elizabeth was also a relative of Saint Anna, the mother of Mary, the Birthgiver of God. Zachariah was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple and had watched over Mary when she was brought to the Temple as a child. One day when he was already an old man, Zachariah was visited by an angel in the Temple. The angel told him that Elizabeth was going to have a baby named John. Zachariah didn't believe the angel because he and Elizabeth were so old. Immediately, Zachariah lost the ability to speak because he had doubted the power of God. When Elizabeth was about six months pregnant, Mary came to visit her to tell Elizabeth about the message she had received from the Archangel Gabriel- Mary was also going to have a baby, the Son of God. Feeling Saint John move in her belly, Saint Elizabeth knew that Mary was telling the truth and she recognized the power of God. After Elizabeth's baby was born, Zachariah was asked what the name would be and he wrote "John" on a piece of paper. Because he had followed the message of the angel and showed that he did believe in God's power, Zachariah was able to speak again.

Tropar (Tone 2): The memory of Your prophets Zachariah and Elizabeth we celebrate today, O Lord. By their prayers, we beseech You, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tropar (Tone 4): Robed in the vestments of the priesthood, according to the Law of God you offered whole-burnt offerings in a sacred manner, wise Zachariah. You became a luminary and a seer of the

mysteries, bearing within yourself the signs of grace, all-wise one. Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ, intercede together with the Forerunner that our souls may be saved.

Saint John the Baptist

Saint John was the son of Saints Zachariah and Elizabeth. As a teenager and young adult, John spent much of his time in the desert, fasting and praying. After a while, he received a message from God that it was time to teach others that the Messiah would soon be here. His main message was that repentance and baptism were necessary because the Son of God was coming. Because his father was a priest, John was also in the priesthood of Aaron and was able to baptize others. Jesus came to John to be baptized to show that He was God, but also truly a man. Although John did not want to do this because he did not feel holy enough, he agreed to baptize Christ to do what God had asked. He continued to teach others about Jesus and helped bring many people to God. He is called the forerunner because he is the last prophet to come before Jesus.

Tropar (Tone 2): The memory of the righteous is praised, but you are well pleased, Forerunner, with the testimony of the Lord. For you have truly been revealed as more honorable than the prophets since you were deemed worthy to baptize in the stream the One they foretold. Therefore, having fought and suffered for the Truth, you have also joyfully preached the good tidings of God revealed in the flesh to those in Hades. He takes away the sins of the world and grants us great mercy.

Saint Macrina the Elder

Not much is known about the life of Saint Macrina the Elder, but what we do know is that she was definitely a champion of the faith, partly because she shared it with her family. Macrina and her husband lived during a time when it was illegal to be a Christian. They had to go into hiding in the wilderness for several years to avoid being arrested and tortured. Saint Macrina was a strong influence on her children and grandchildren and helped to teach them about God. Her son Saint Basil the Elder and his wife Saint Emmelia raised nine children, many of whom went on to become saints as well.

Saints Basil the Elder and Emmelia (Emily)

Saint Basil the Elder was the son of Saint Macrina the Elder. Saint Emmelia's father was a martyr. Together, these saints raised nine children, many of whom became saints: Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Peter of Sebaste, Monk Naucratus, Deaconess Theosebia and Nun Macrina. They taught their children about God and raised them to be strong Christians. Emmelia's family was quite wealthy and she inherited several pieces of land and the wealth that came with it. After Basil the Elder passed away, Emmelia gave away most of her land and wealth and freed the servants that had worked there. She and her daughter Macrina used one of the properties to begin a monastery for women.

Saint Peter of Sebaste

Peter was the youngest son of Basil the Elder and Emmelia. His older sister Macrina helped to guide him and teach him about God. Peter took his studies seriously and after his brother Basil the Great had become a bishop, he ordained Peter to the priesthood. Peter lived alone as a monk, but stayed close to his mother and sister and helped them to begin a women's monastery. As a bishop of Sebaste in

Armenia, Peter defended the faith against heretics, or people who taught wrong messages about God. He stood up to the Arians, who said that Jesus was less powerful than God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Saint Basil the Great

Saint Basil, the son of Basil the Elder and Emmelia, is one of the most well-known saints in the church. As a young child, he spent a lot of time with his grandmother Macrina who made sure that he got a strong education in reading and writing, and also in the Christian faith. He would go on to do many things in his life to serve as a champion of the faith. Basil didn't decide to become a Christian right away, but when his younger brother Monk Naucratus died at the age of 27, Basil's sister Macrina convinced him to convert. Basil eventually became a monk and helped to establish many of the rules and guidelines for being a monk. Then he became a bishop in an important area of the world. When the emperor came to Basil's diocese and tried to bring a heresy, or wrong teaching that said that Jesus was less powerful than God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Basil argued with the emperor and defended the faith. The emperor was so mad that Basil wouldn't listen to him, but he realized that Basil had spoken so perfectly that there was nothing he could do. Basil also wrote several important sermons and letters that help to guide Christians even today and influenced several versions of the Divine Liturgy. He built a house where the poor could come to find food and shelter and he taught his people that if they prayed over what little food they had, God would bless them with enough to share with others. Saint Basil is remembered as one of the Three Hierarchs along with Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom.

Troparion (Tone 1): Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth, which was divinely taught by hearing your voice. Expounding the nature of creatures, ennobling the manners of men. O holy father of a royal priesthood, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, son of Basil the Elder and Emmelia, was a bishop like his brothers Peter of Sebaste and Basil the Great. Like his brothers, Gregory defended the faith against heresies, or wrong teachings. Gregory defended the faith by attending councils, or meetings, where bishops and important people made decisions about how to follow God. He also wrote letters and sermons, and helped to finish some of the letters that his brother wrote. Gregory spoke out against those who taught incorrectly about Mary- some wanted to worship her like a god while others thought she was just like any other woman and didn't deserve any special recognition. He also wrote about God and spoke against those who said that God's power had limits. Gregory also helped to record history by writing down information about the lives of saints like his sister Macrina.

Saint Macrina the Younger

Saint Macrina was the daughter of Basil the Elder and Emmelia. She was named for her grandmother Macrina the Elder, who is also a saint. As the oldest daughter, Macrina helped to teach her brothers, especially the youngest brother Paul about Christianity. After her father died, Macrina convinced her mother to become a nun and they built a monastery together.

Troparion (Tone 8): The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother, for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away, but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore your spirit, O Holy Mother Macrina, rejoices with the Angels!

Saint Theosebia

Saint Theosebia was the daughter of Basil the Elder and Emmelia. Not as much is known about Theosebia as her other siblings, but she spent most of her life in Nyssa with her brother Gregory where she was a deaconess. She helped to care for the poor and the sick, and took care of orphans who didn't have parents. Another job of a deaconess was to help women who wanted to become Christians prepare for baptism.

Saint Theodota

Saint Theodota lived in Asia in the third century. She learned about Christianity and after her sons were born, she convinced her pagan husband to become a Christian. Together, they taught their sons to follow God and after her husband died, Theodota continued to raise them as Christians. She was patient and loving and other women respected her for how well she taught her sons. She made sure that they were educated as doctors, and also knowledgeable about Christianity.

Saints Cosmas and Damian

Saints Cosmas and Damian were brothers who were also trained physicians. Their mother Theodota had taught them to be strong Christians and they traveled great distances to heal those who called upon them. Saints Cosmas and Damian refused to take money or gifts from the people they helped because they knew that the talents they had been given were from God. One time however, Saint Damian made an exception to this rule. After he and his brother healed a woman who had been very sick, she gave him a basket with three eggs and said that the gift was in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Because the gift was given in the name of God, Saint Damian accepted it. Many miracles have also occurred when people pray and venerate their relics.

Lesson Three: Lives of the Missionary Saints

St Nino (Nina), Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia

Saint Nino #1: Nino (Nee-no) of Cappadocia (Cap-ah-doh-see-ah) was a relative of Great-martyr George and the only daughter of a widely respected and honorable couple. Her father was a Roman army chief by the name of Zabulon (Zab-you-lawn), and her mother, Sosana (So-saw-nah), was the sister of Patriarch Juvenal (joo-venn-nahl) of Jerusalem. When Nino reached the age of twelve, her parents sold all their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. Soon after, Nino's father was tonsured a monk. He bid farewell to his family and went to labor in the wilderness of the Jordan. After Sosana had been separated from her husband, Patriarch Juvenal ordained her a deaconess. She left her daughter Nino with an old woman named Sara, who raised her in the Christian Faith and told her the stories of Christ's life and His suffering on earth.

Nino #2: Sara taught Nino (Nee-no) how Christ's Robe had arrived in Georgia, a country of pagans. Soon Nino began to pray to the Theotokos, asking for her blessing to travel to Georgia and be made worthy to venerate the Sacred Robe that she had woven for her beloved Son. The Most Holy Virgin heard her prayers and appeared to Nino in a dream, saying, "Go to the country that was assigned to me by lot and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will send down His grace upon you and I will be your protector." But the blessed Nino was overwhelmed and nervous and answered, "How can I, a fragile woman, perform such a momentous task, and how can I believe that this vision is real?" The Most Holy Theotokos gave her a cross of grapevines and said, "Receive this cross as a shield against visible and invisible enemies!" When she woke up, Nino was holding the cross in her hands. She cried and tied it securely with strands of her own hair. Nino told her uncle, Patriarch Juvenal (joo-venn-nahl), about her vision and explained her desire to preach the Gospel in Georgia. Juvenal led her in front of the Royal Doors, laid his hands on her, and prayed.

Nino #3: When Nino (Nee-noh) arrived in Rome, she met and baptized the princess Rhipsimia (rip-sim-ee-a) and her nurse, Gaiana (guy-yawn-ah). At that time the Roman emperor was infamous for persecuting Christians. The cruel emperor fell in love with Rhipsimia and decided to marry her, but St. Nino, Rhipsimia, Gaiana, and fifty other women escaped to Armenia (arm-mean-ee-a), a nearby country. The furious emperor ordered his soldiers to follow them and sent a messenger to the Armenian king so that he could watch for the women. The Armenian king found the women and also fell in love with Rhipsimia. But St. Rhipsimia would not agree to marry him, and in his rage the king captured and killed her and the other women. God saved St. Nino, however, because He had more tasks for her and she escaped the king by hiding among some rose bushes.

Nino #4: When she finally arrived in Georgia, St. Nino (Nee-no) was greeted by a group of shepherds, and she received a blessing from God to preach to the pagans of this region so that they could learn about Christianity. One time, St. Nino came across a group of Georgians who were making a pilgrimage to venerate the pagan idol Armazi (Arm-ah-zee). There she watched with great sadness as the Georgian people trembled before the idols. She was very sad and prayed to the Lord. Suddenly the wind began to blow and hail fell from the sky, shattering the pagan statues. The terrified worshipers ran away.

Nino #5: Wherever St. Nino went, people who heard her preach converted to the Christian Faith in great numbers. St. Nino even healed Queen Nana who was very sick. She also converted. Her husband, King Mirian (Meer-ee-an), was a pagan and was not at all pleased with the great impression St. Nino's preaching had made on the Georgian nation. One day while he was out hunting, he became so angry that he decided to kill all followers of Christ- even his wife, Queen Nana, who had become a Christian.

Nino #6: While he was hunting, it suddenly became very dark. King Mirian (Meer-ee-an) became afraid and prayed for the help of the pagan gods. When nothing happened, he finally lost hope and, miraculously, he turned to Christ. He said, "God of Nino (Nee-no), illumine this night for me and guide my footsteps, and I will declare Thy Holy Name. I will erect a cross and venerate it and I will construct for Thee a temple. I vow to be obedient to Nino and to the Faith of the Roman people!"

Nino #7: Suddenly the dark was gone and the sun shone radiantly. King Mirian (Meer-ee-an) gave great thanks to God and when he returned to the city, he informed St. Nino of his decision to become a Christian. Because of St. Nino's hard work, Georgia became a Christian country. St. Nino, Equal to the Apostles, died in eastern Georgia and, according to her will, she was buried in the place where she took her last breath. King Mirian later built a church in honor of St. George over her grave.

Adapted from <http://www.antiochian.org/node/17330>

Sts. Cyril and Methodius

Cyril and Methodius #1: Constantine (later Cyril) and Michael (later Methodius) were born early in the 9th century in Thessalonika (thess-alone-ick-ah) into a government family. Their father was the ruler of a part of Greece and a part of Macedonia (mass-eh-doh-nee-ah). Being raised in an area where people spoke both Greek and Slavic languages, the brothers were able to understand both languages. They were also well educated.

Cyril and Methodius #2: Unfortunately, their father died when they were young and they had to be taken care of by their uncle, who was a powerful official in the Byzantine (Bizz-an-teen) government. He helped Cyril to get into a very respected school where he became a deacon and taught others about Christ. Their uncle also helped Methodius to become a government worker in the Slavic area of the empire. Methodius also went to a monastery on Mount Olympus where he became a monk. Cyril and Methodius became well known and respected for their knowledge about Christ and the church. They were sent on missionary trips to convince people to become Christians. They were also invited to other countries by leaders who wanted their people to know more about Christ.

Cyril and Methodius #3: In 862 the two brothers were invited by Prince Rastislav of Great Moravia (More-A-vee-ah) to preach Christianity in his nation. The people in Moravia spoke a Slavic language that had never been written down before. Cyril and Methodius knew that their family was from this area of the world and wanted to make sure that the people there were able to learn about Christ long after they had finished their mission. They developed an alphabet which became the Cyrillic (sih-rill-ick) alphabet and is used in our Ukrainian parishes and many other Eastern European languages. They used this new alphabet to translate all of the Scriptures and holy books into the language of Moravia.

Cyril and Methodius #4: The work of Saints Cyril and Methodius helped the people in the Slavic lands to learn more about Christ, but not everyone was happy about this. As long as the people could not read or write, the rulers of the land had more power over them. Now that the people could read and write their own language, they could communicate with people all over their land. They could tell others about Christ. The rulers were slowly losing power over their people. While the rest of the world remembers Sts. Cyril and Methodius for writing what would become the Cyrillic alphabet, Orthodox Christians remember them as examples of the Apostles. Just as the Apostles spoke to those of all languages on Pentecost, Cyril and Methodius made it possible for Slavic speakers to learn about Christ in their own language.

Information adapted from [http://orthodoxwiki.org/Cyril and Methodius](http://orthodoxwiki.org/Cyril_and_Methodius)

Saint Cosmos of Aetolia

Cosmos #1: Holy Father Cosmos (cause-mose) lived in the 1700's and was from the town of Mega Dendron (which means Great Tree) in Aetolia (Ay-toll-ee-ah), Greece. At the age of twenty, he went to study at a school in the Monastery of Vatopedi. Later, he came to the Athonite Monastery of Philotheou (feel-oh-they-oo) where he was tonsured. With the blessing of his abbot, St. Cosmos went to Constantinople where he learned to speak to the public about Christ. He developed one of God's many gifts and skills so that he could serve God better.

Cosmos #2: Soon, he began to preach throughout all the regions of northern Greece, the Ionian (eye-oh-nee-an) Islands, but especially in Albania. Many people in Albania knew nothing about Christ because the rulers at the time were Muslims and forced everyone to practice Islam. Even the people who wanted to become Christians knew very little about Christ and the church because they had to learn in secret.

Cosmos #3: St. Cosmos (cause-mose) spent many years in Albania greatly strengthening and enlightening the people there by working many signs and wonders. He travelled by foot, by donkey and by ship. Since many of the towns had no churches or places where everyone could listen to St. Cosmos, when he came to a village he would ask the villagers to plant a large wooden cross in the village square. Then he would climb onto a bench next to the cross and preach to the villagers about the love of God and the Orthodox faith.

Cosmos #4: He helped to build over two hundred schools and set up charities and churches all over the countryside. St. Cosmos (cause-mose) convinced the rich to donate money for the repair and building of the churches, to buy Holy Books that he gave to the people in the towns he visited, and other religious items like prayer ropes, crosses, baptismal fonts and head coverings.

Information adapted from <http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsViewer.asp?FSID=102390> and <http://www.comeandseeicons.com/c/phn56.htm>

St. Nicholas, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Japan

Nicholas #1: Nicholas was born in Russia in the late 1800's and was originally named Ivan Kasatkin. His father, Dmitri, served as a deacon. His mother died when he was five. The deacon's family was big and very poor. Despite that, young Ivan was sent to several seminaries where he was always one of the best students. When Ivan was about to finish his studies, his future mission was revealed. The Russian ambassadors in Japan sent a request to the Holy Synod (sin-id) of bishops, asking for a priest.

Nicholas #2: Ivan found out about this request and asked the bishop in charge of his seminary to send him to the Russian Consulate (con-syoo-let) in Japan. Bishop Nectarius (neck-tar-ee-us) agreed and Ivan eventually became Hieromonk Nicholas. On his way to Japan, Nicholas met Saint Innocent, called the Apostle of America and Siberia. He listened to Saint Innocent's stories and learned from the older missionary's experience. Nicholas learned what was necessary to continue his mission. When Nicholas arrived in Hakodate, Japan, preaching the Gospel there seemed almost impossible.

Nicholas #3: The people of Japan were not used to the idea of Christianity and believed that only magicians and sorcerers belonged in the church. It took Nicholas eight years to begin to understand the country, its people and language, and the customs and traditions of the people he had come to teach. To learn more about the culture, Hieromonk (High-row-monk) Nicholas attended popular gatherings to listen to visiting storytellers and Buddhist preachers. He learned spoken Japanese and his knowledge of the history of Japan was deeper than even many Japanese people. In the meantime, he also learned English, which was becoming an international language. Nicholas wanted to be as prepared as possible to spread the word of Christ in Japan.

Nicholas #4: After a while, Hieromonk Nicholas went back to St. Petersburg to report on the results of his work. The Synod of bishops decided to create a special mission team that was dedicated to teaching the people of pagan lands about Christ and the church. Nicholas was chosen to lead this team. When he returned to Japan, he found out that his mission would be even more difficult than before because the rulers in Japan were persecuting Christians. After a few years, the government became less strict and it became possible for Christians to worship and teach about Christ.

Nicholas #5: Nicholas succeeded in providing many ways for the people of Japan to learn about Christ. He started by building a church and a school for fifty people in Tokyo. Soon after, a theological school was also built. Many more schools were built and eventually, graduates of the seminary were ordained deacons and priests so that they could also help to spread the word of Christ. Nicholas and his followers also began to publish a magazine, The Church Herald, on a regular basis. He completed the construction of the Holy Resurrection Cathedral (Tokyo, Japan) and then translated liturgical books into Japanese. He did all of these things while still travelling to Orthodox communities all over the country.

Nicholas #6: In 1911, after fifty years of work as a missionary, the Church of Japan had grown to over 33,000 Orthodox Christians, one archbishop, one bishop, 35 priests, and six deacons. Many more people were learning about Christ and preparing to be baptized. Nicholas was recognized for his hard work by being elevated to the rank of bishop and eventually archbishop.

Information adapted from http://orthodoxwiki.org/Nicholas_of_Japan and <http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsViewer.asp?FSID=100419>



ST.
N I N A

EQUAL
TO
THE
A
P O S T L E S



St. Nicholas of Japan

By Not mentioned. Self-scan. - "Niva" magazine, № 26 1910., Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1257398>



**Saint Cosmos of
Aetolia**

By Unknown - Unknown, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8469788>



EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES

ST. METHODIUS

ST. CYRIL

ENLIGHTENERS OF THE SLAVS

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

А Б В Г Д Е
Ж З И Й К
Л М Н П Р
С Т Ф Х Ц Ч
Ш Щ Ъ Ы
Ь Э Ю Я

Lesson Six- Lives of Saints of North America

Orthodox Saints in America

Reprinted from Little Falcons - "Saints of America"; Vol. 17, No. 4, 2010, edited by Fr. Thomas Kazich

Artwork by Christine Kaniuk Zebrun, published in "Saints of North America", by DRE of OCA



Orthodox Saints in America

St. John of San Francisco & Shanghai - July 2

St. John was born in Russia in 1896. As a child he was very sick. Later he finished his schooling and even a Law Degree. With his family he moved to Serbia where he studied theology. In 1934 he was consecrated a bishop for China. There he opened an orphanage and helped 1500 children. In 1949 he and other Russians were forced to leave China. In the Philippines his faithful were spared destruction by typhoons through his intervention, for when they finally left, the island was destroyed. In 1962 he was sent to San Francisco where he supervised the completion of the cathedral. St. John was very ascetical and a worker of miracles. He died in 1966.



hut and taught the natives to be carpenters, blacksmiths, and bricklayers. In return they helped him build a church. He traveled to remote areas by canoe, dog sled and even reindeer. He learned six native languages and translated the Scriptures into them. After 14 years, he returned to Russia for support and money. But his wife died and the church elected him as a bishop. He returned to Alaska, continuing to build churches, guide priests and bring the Gospel to the native Alaskan people. He was transferred to Moscow and died there in 1879.

St. Tikhon, Enlightener of America - April 7

St. Tikhon was born in Russia in 1865. His father was a priest. As a young boy he loved the church and helping others. After



graduating from the Seminary he became a teacher, then a monk. Finally he was consecrated a bishop and was sent to Alaska. He traveled through the Alaskan wilderness to visit his flock using dogsleds and kayaks. He encouraged the people to develop mission parishes, which increased parishes from 15 to 70. He was a gentle man who believed it was important to help immigrants to adjust to life in America. He moved to New York to help those arriving from Europe and build the St. Nicholas Cathedral. In 1905 he blessed the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk in So. Canaan, PA. Returning to Russia he was elected as the First Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. He died on April 7, 1925.

St. Innocent, Apostle to America - March 31

St. Innocent was born in Russia in 1707. When he was six he was orphaned. He was later sent to a Seminary, where through hard work he completed his studies. He married and was ordained. He served as a parish priest for two years in Irkutsk and then volunteered to go to Alaska for missionary work. When he was 26, he and his family traveled over 2,000 miles to Alaska. There he lived in a



Source: *Saints of North America*, by DRE of OCA. Art by Christine Kaniuk Zebrun



**St. Juvenaly
first martyr of
Alaska - July 2**

St. Juvenaly was born in Siberia in 1761. He worked as an engineer in the mines, but after his wife died, he entered a monastery where he was tonsured a monk and later made a priest. He went to Alaska as a missionary. After traveling 8,000 miles across Asia, Siberia and northern Pacific Ocean, he with others that included St. Herman, arrived on Kodiak Island. Within two years, the missionary group converted more than 12,000 Alaskans to Orthodox Christianity. He traveled often in boats made of animal skins. One day he came to the mouth of a river. Some native Eskimo hunters, who were not Christian, saw him. They did not understand his gestures in making the sign of the cross. They killed him with arrows and spears. He became the first martyr in America in 1796.

**St. Raphael
Hawaweeny
of Brooklyn -
Feb 27**

St. Raphael was born in Damascus, Syria. He was a good student in elementary school and received a scholarship to study Theology in the Ecumenical Patriarch's School at Halki. After further studies in the Ukraine, he went to Brooklyn. As a priest, he traveled across the US, visiting people, talking about God and performing the sacraments of the church as needed. He started thirty Syrian Orthodox parishes. In 1904, St. Raphael became the very first Or-



thodox bishop to be consecrated in North American soil. Both Archbishop Tikhon of Moscow and Bishop Innocent performed the consecration in New York. St. Raphael thought it was important for children to learn about the church and he set up evening schools. He supported the use of English in the church services. He started the church magazine "The Word" which is still published by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. He died in 1915. His glorification services as a saint were held at St. Tikhon's Monastery in So. Canaan.

**S t .
Barnabas
Confessor of
Indiana -
Nov 12**

St. Barnabas was born in 1914 in Gary, Indiana. As a child he read the epistle in St. Sava's



Church and recited long poems in children's programs. In elementary school, he learned about democracy first hand in his community of 67 cultures and languages, where people got along. He returned to Serbia with his family, when he was nine years old. After completing his seminary studies, he was ordained a priest and later consecrated a bishop in 1947. After the war, he spoke out against the new communist government. He spoke of freedom of conscience and freedom to worship. He was arrested and tried and sentenced to eleven years of hard labor. In a train wreck he was injured and soon let out of prison. When his family and friends in America heard, they collected money to buy him a car, to make his life easier. Though St. Barnabas was grateful for the gift, he didn't use it for himself. He took the gift and offered it to

God. He used the car to drive sick priests to the doctor and visit people everywhere, encouraging them not to give up, but to believe and hope. He made his car an instrument of salvation for many. He was a good steward with the gift that he received. He died in 1964



St. Jacob of Alaska - July 26

St. Jacob was born on an Aleutian Island in Alaska in 1802. When he was quite young, his parents moved to Siberia in Russia. As a child Jacob wanted to learn more about the church, so he enrolled in the Seminary. He was married and then ordained a priest. He then returned to Alaska with his wife and father. He loved his flock and spoke two languages. He would hold services in a tent since there were no churches. Finally he build a church dedicated to St. Nicholas and a school. He helped translate Holy Scriptures. He died in 1864.

St. Peter the Aleut - September 24

Born on Kodiak Island, St. Peter was given the name by the monks from St. Herman's missionary party. St. Peter was a fur-hunter. When Peter's hunting party neared Fort Ross, California by ship, they were captured by Spanish sailors and taken to San Francisco for a mock trial. He was asked to leave the



Orthodox faith. He refused. He was tortured. He was asked again to deny his faith and again he refused. Finally the torture led to his death. He became the third martyr for the Orthodox Faith in America. This happened in 1815.

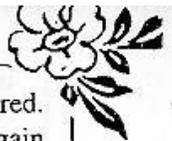


St. John of Chicago - Oct 31

St. John was born in Russia. His father was a priest and inspired John to attend Seminary. He always wanted to be a missionary priest in the US. He became parish priest at St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Chicago. St. John hired an architect, and the church, known today as Holy Trinity Cathedral and a historic landmark, was built and consecrated. St. John established other churches in the Chicagoland area. He worked with St. Alexis Toth. In 1907 he went back to Russia where he taught religious education. Many wars were being fought inside Russia between those who wanted church services and those who didn't. St. John was killed in 1917.

St. Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre - May 7

St. Alexis was born in 1854 in Austria-Hungary. People from the Carpathian mountains were originally Orthodox, but coerced by the Roman Catholic state church there to come under the Pope of Rome. St. Alexis as a young man was very poor but he



always helped people in need of food, clothing or shelter. He received a degree in Theology from the University of Prague. After marriage and ordination he traveled to Minneapolis in the US. Once there he found little acceptance by the local Catholic Church, who did not understand the Eastern rite. St. Alexis reacted by deciding to return to the Orthodox fold and to bring his people with him. He later built St. Mary's Church. Finally St. Alexis and his parishioners were accepted into the Orthodox Church. He was the first Uniate Catholic priest in America to lead his people to reunion with the Orthodox Church. He was then sent to Wilkes-Barre. Through his efforts many other parishes were received back into the Orthodox fold. He died in 1909 as a defender of Orthodoxy in America.

**St. Nicholas of Ochrid
- March 18**

St. Nicholai or Bishop Nicholai as he is affectionately called was born in Serbia in 1880. As an excellent student, he studied in Belgrade and then in Switzerland receiving many degrees. He was ordained a priest and not only taught in the Seminary but was invited to England where he preached about Orthodoxy to the Protestant world. He was consecrated a bishop and was sent to the US. His sermons were so powerful that he became known as the Serbian Golden-mouthed. He returned to Serbia and became Bishop of Ochrid and then of Zicha. There he would serve the people during the day and at night he would write. Volumes and volumes of his letters, articles and sermons were gathered. His daily "Lives of the Saints" are a treasury to all those who seek to



know God. During World War II he was arrested and held captive by the Nazis. After the war he returned to America and taught at St. Tikhon's Seminary. He died in 1956.



**S t .
Alexander of
New York -
Dec 4**

St. Alexander was born in Russia in 1872. His father was a priest and dean of a seminary. After he graduated from seminary, he began missionary work in New York City. There he married and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. He loved the people he served, but his work was very dangerous. At times he was beaten and jailed because of his love for God, the Church, and for teaching young children religion. He eventually returned to Russia, during the revolution. St. Alexander helped the poor and saved the religious items that were confiscated by the government. Finally he was arrested because of his belief in God and he died in 1937.



Lesson Eight- Icons for Gallery of Saints

Iconography use: Icons exist first and foremost as a tool through which we glorify God. Access to images of icons on the internet can enhance the understanding of your students and bring authenticity to their work, however it is important to consider the source of the icon, to be respectful of the author's work, and to be thoughtful about any applicable copyright issues. When possible, it is best practice to use icons after receiving permission from the iconographer. Most of the icons provided in curriculum materials are used with the permission of the iconographer, however not all were able to be identified. Please consult your parish priest for guidance in the selection of appropriate icons.

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