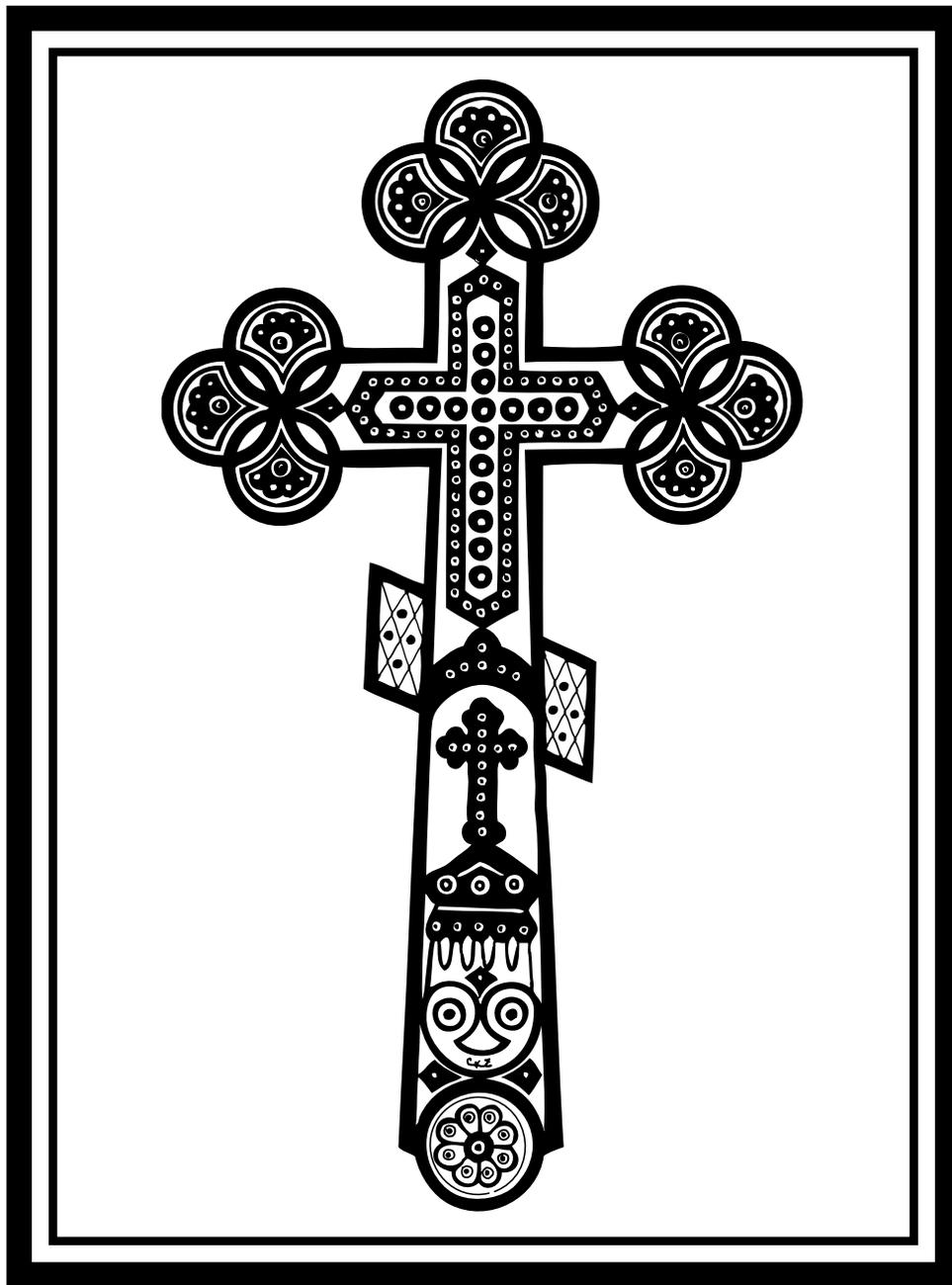


SAINTS

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE



An Activity Book for Orthodox Children and Parents
Department of Christian Education • Orthodox Church in America

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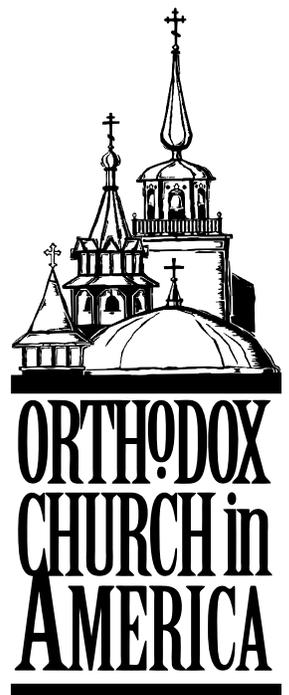
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The Department of Christian Education provides support for the educational ministries of the clergy, church school teachers, families, and others engaged in faith formation on every level. The DCE welcomes your input and comments. We invite you to contact us at ChristianEducation@OCA.org to ask questions or to offer comments and suggestions for further educational projects.

We encourage you to visit our website at <http://dce.oca.org> where you will find a variety of educational resources in our mini and focus units of study as well as a wide variety of supplemental and resource materials.

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Introduction

to Parents and Teachers

The popular Saints of North America Activity Book, put forth by the OCA's Department of Christian Education, has now been complemented by what promises to be an equally useful resource: a workbook focusing on Saints in Times of Trouble.

Although each Christian generation has its own unique challenges there were those followers of Christ – in various times and places – who suffered extraordinarily for the Faith. They gave their lives completely through sacrificial service or in death, “for the sake of Christ and the Gospel.” The present work bears witness to twelve such disciples.

What makes this brief collection distinct from some others is the diversity of examples presented. Descriptions include, for example, St. John Chrysostom and the deaconess St. Olympias and St. Poplia from the 4th century; St. Aidan (Scotland) and St. Cuthbert (Britain) from the 7th century; St. Alexander Nevsky (the Russian Prince) 13th century, and the Iconographer St. Andrei Rublev, 14th century. Moving forward, the 19th and 20th centuries are represented by such figures as: St. Barbara the Nun-Martyr of Russia; St. Gorazd, Bishop and New-Martyr of Prague; St. Maria Skobtsova of Paris; St. Mitrophan of China; and St. Patriarch Tikhon.

In addition to facts concerning their lives each entry contains the Troparion and Kontakion for the Saint, and journal questions to facilitate discussions with students as well as puzzle activities. Further resources, including a large glossary and full color displays of cultural points of interests are cited for those who want more information. As in the first book, Saints of North America, this second activity book features beautifully detailed iconographic line drawings as well as a map of where each Saint journeyed during their lifetime.

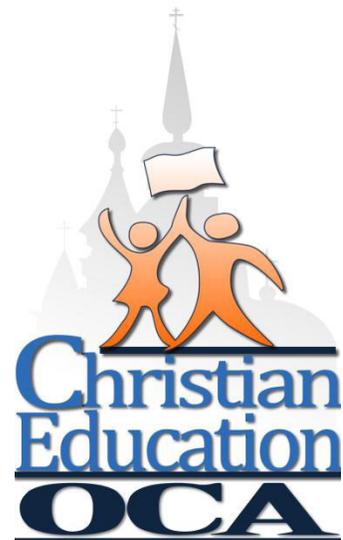
A compilation such as this will prove invaluable for parents and teachers alike. God provided a witness to Himself through the men and women herein described. The Church does her children a great service by teaching them about those “heroes” for the faith, to follow in their footsteps.

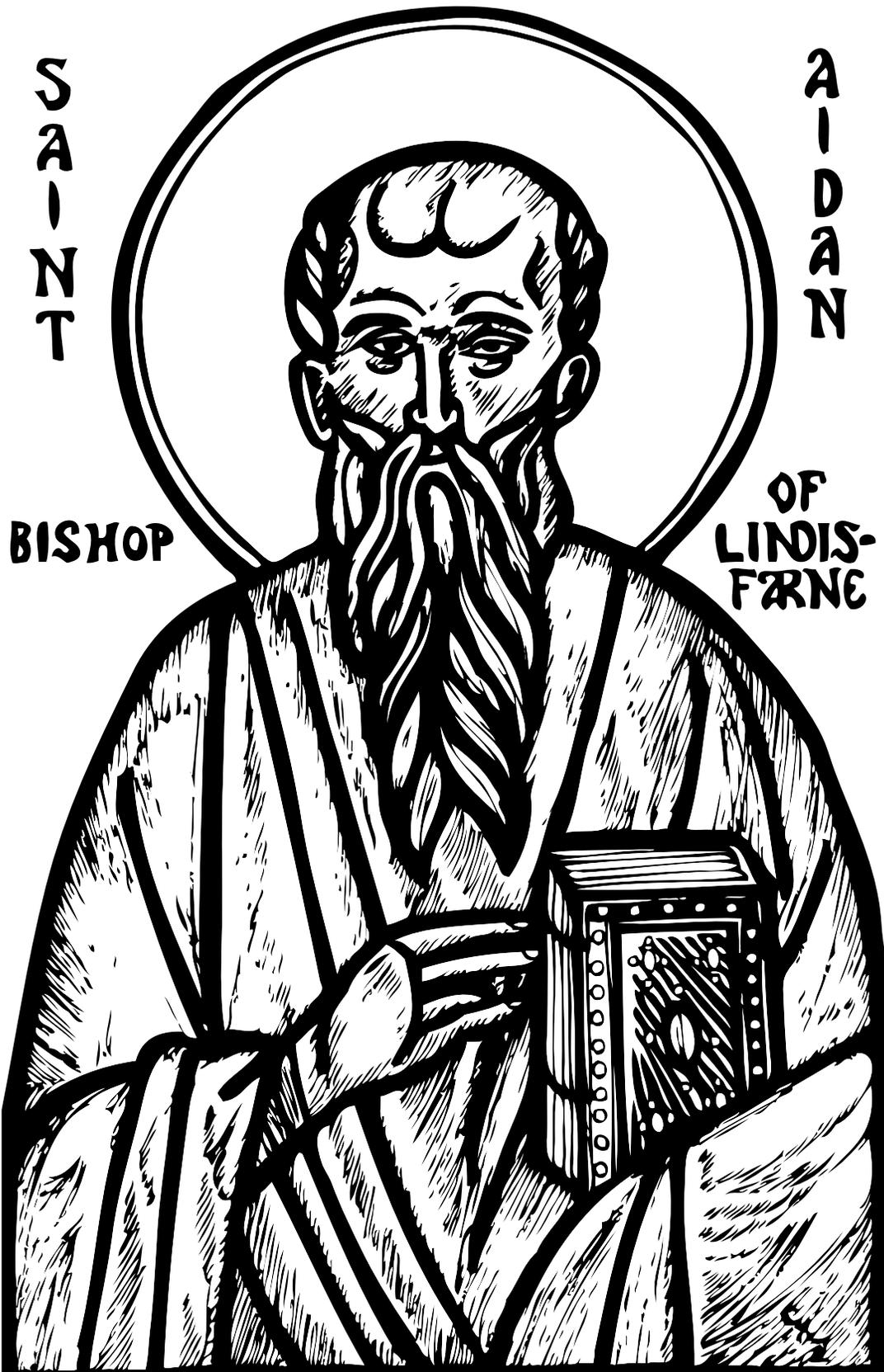
Christ said, “In the world you shall have tribulation.” He followed with these words, “Rejoice, for I have overcome the world.” Saints in Times of Trouble reveals how that possibility is given regardless of the outward circumstances of one's life, a necessary lesson for people of all ages. Thanks to the members of the Department of Christian Education for their work on this fine project.

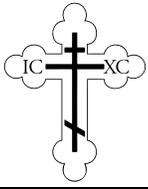
Archpriest Basil Zebrun

Department of Christian Education

Orthodox Church in America







St. Aidan

Bishop of Lindisfarne ✦ Enlightener of Northumbria

Aidan was born in Ireland in the 7th century. He became a **monk** of Iona, an island **monastery** in Scotland.

Christianity was brought to Ireland when it was part of the Roman Empire. Great Christians like Saint Patrick and Saint Brigid worked hard to spread the faith. But after the decline of the Roman Empire, the Anglo-Saxon pagan religion, with its worship of many of gods, began to take hold again in Ireland and Scotland. This was a time of crisis for the Church, because the good work of those early Christian teachers was threatened by this return to pagan worship.

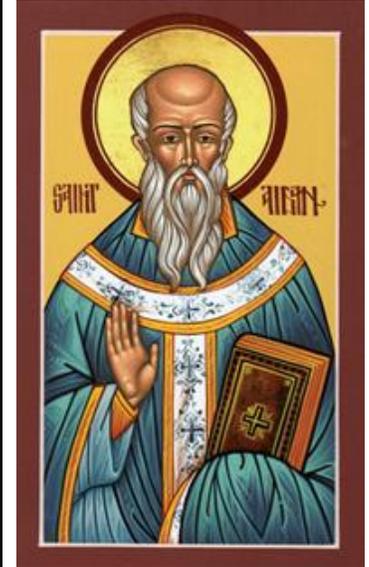
Around 616, many local kings were battling for power. They banished, or sent away, rival kings whom they defeated. One such king, Oswald, was converted to Christianity. He returned to his throne in the kingship of Northumbria in 641. He wanted to bring Christianity to his people. He sent word to the monastery on the island of Iona in east Scotland, asking for missionaries. Bishop Cormac was sent, but he returned, saying he could not succeed because people there were stubborn and barbaric. Aidan spoke to those present upon Cormac's return, explaining that the bishop was too harsh, and that people "need to be fed first with milk, rather than solid food." He meant that he felt the bishop had been too impatient, and that teachers needed to move slowly to get people to understand Christ.

Aidan and King Oswald understood the urgent need to bring Christianity to the people, and not let pagan worship take over. Aidan was immediately made **bishop** and sent to Northumbria. King Oswald gave him the island of Lindisfarne, near the castle in Bamburg, for Bishop Aidan's Episcopal see. There, in 635, Bishop Aidan founded a monastery.

Bishop Aidan was successful and became famous throughout the area. He was well - known for his piety, humility, and generosity. He lived only on what he needed, and gave the rest to the poor, even giving his horse to a beggar. On foot, the kindly bishop visited all areas of Northumbria and established many missions, or new churches. King Oswald served as his translator for Gaelic/English to help Bishop Aidan's message reach all of the people in his kingdom. King Oswald was not only known for his generosity to the poor, but also for his patience in bringing people to Christ.

In 642, King Oswald, who also became a saint, was killed in battle in Maserfield. Bishop Aidan was deeply saddened by this. However, Aidan's good friend, Oswin, took the throne. He too helped Aidan spread Christianity throughout Northumbria, until his murder in 651. Twelve days later, on August 31, Bishop Aidan, who became ill at Bamburg castle, died while leaning against the wall of the church. The beam on which he supported himself can still be seen in the church today.

Several stories have spread about his miraculous works. One such account took place during an attack on Bamburg in 651. As the pagan enemy was attempting to burn down the city walls, Bishop Aidan began to pray for the city. The winds suddenly turned from the walls onto the pagans, smoke and flames driving them away.



Quote

Better to feed first with milk, rather than solid food.

- St Aidan said this, referring to gentle ways of winning converts in Ireland and Scotland, in contrast to the harsh methods used without success by the previous bishop.

Date Died

August 31, 651 in Bamburg, Northumbria

Place Buried

Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset

Commemoration Date

August 31

Another story concerns Bishop Aidan's death. A young man named Cuthbert (who later became St. Cuthbert) was tending his master's sheep. He looked up and saw a vision of angels carrying someone's soul to Heaven. He later learned that, at that moment, Bishop Aidan had died. The young Cuthbert decided to become a monk. (See St. Cuthbert)

St. Aidan, however, is most remembered for his kindness, patience, and love for his people of Northumbria, as well as his outpouring of generosity to the poor. He is commemorated as a saint in the Orthodox Church, as well as the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches.

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- Icon of St. Aidan on page 1 by the hand of Matthew D. Garrett

Troparion *(Tone 5)*

O holy Bishop Aidan,
Apostle of the North and light of the Celtic Church,
Glorious in humility, noble in poverty,
Zealous monk and loving missionary,
Intercede for us sinners that Christ our God
May have mercy on our souls.

Kontakion *(Tone 2)*

Thou didst teach and preserve Christ's doctrine,
And didst spread the faith throughout Northumbria.
O holy Hierarch Aidan, unceasingly pray to God for us,
For thou dost worship before His throne forever.

Key Terms

Monk: a man who vows to serve God in a special way

Monastery: a place where monks live, pray and work

Bishop: a monk who is elected to oversee a given area of churches

Special Thanks

✦ Alfred Siewers, Professor Medieval Literature, Bucknell University

✦ Matushka Linda Reeves, Penn State University





Journal Prompts

St. Aidan ✠ Saint Aidan of Lindisfame ✠ Enlightener of Northumbria

1. St. Aidan had to go to a land where the first Christians fell away from the church. He thought he knew the reasons why, but still had to return to a place where Christ was forgotten, and pagan gods were followed. How would you describe his feelings as he journeyed to Northumbria?

2. You have been asked to take over a school project that someone started, but didn't finish. Have you ever worked on a group project in school, only to find out others were not working on their part of the project? How did you feel? What would be some of the steps you would have to take to make sure the project was successful?

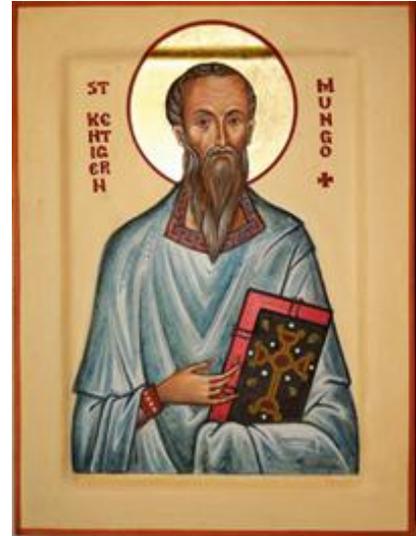
3. What specific difficulties did St. Aidan encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

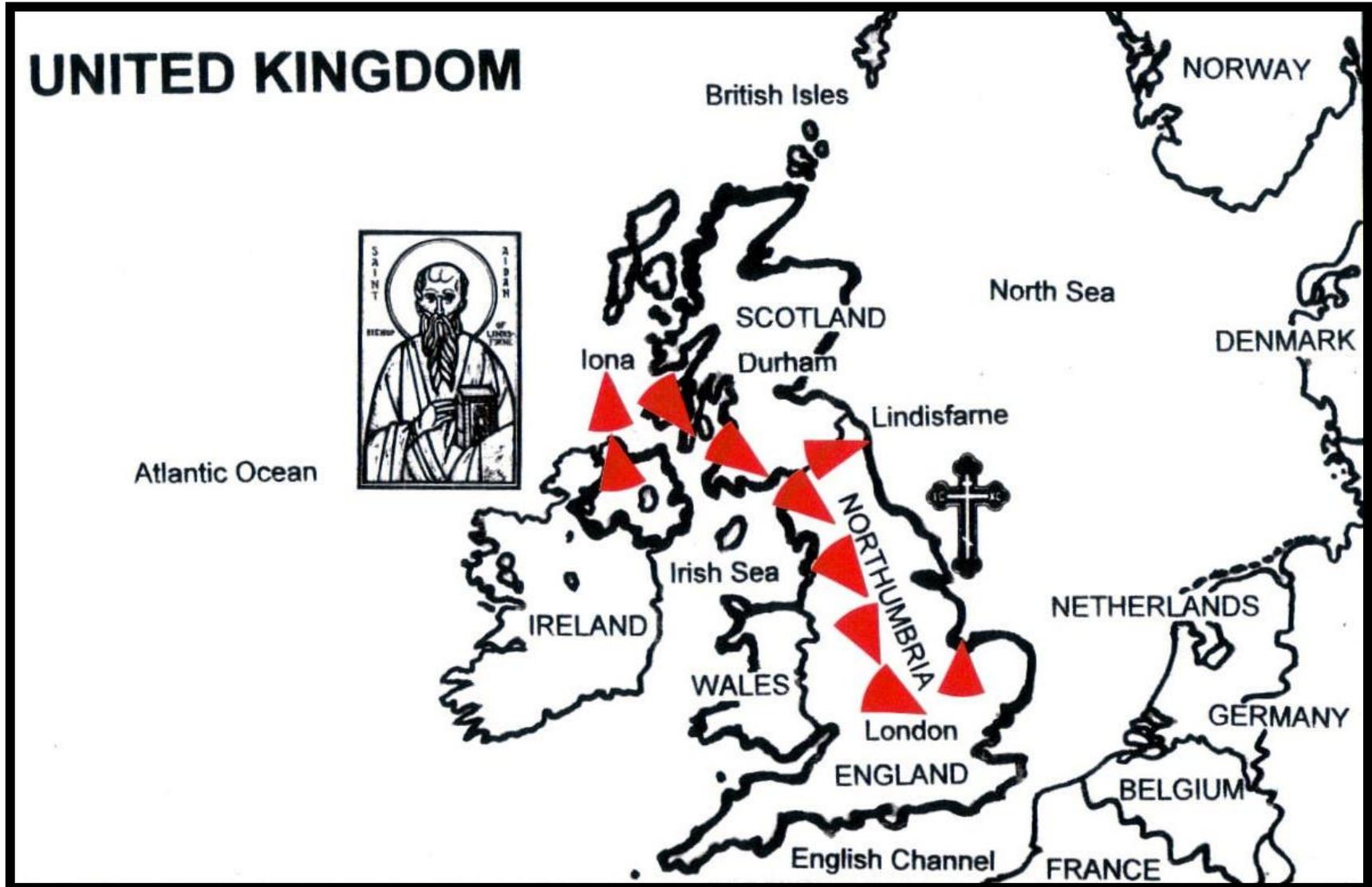
5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Aidan living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



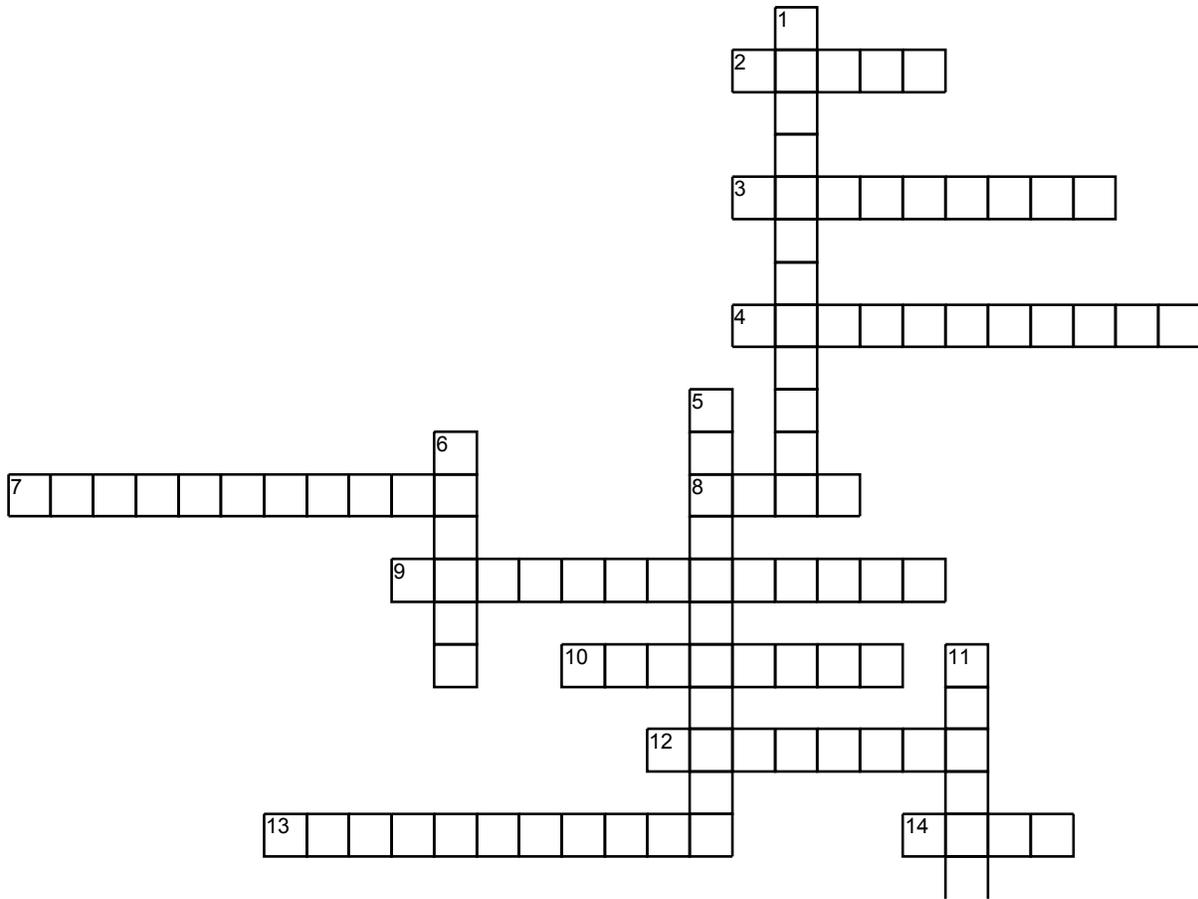
St. Aidan's Travels



Criss Cross

St. Aidan

Complete the puzzle using the clues shown below.



Across

2. love of God through prayer and good deeds, especially the poor
3. where monks live, pray, and work
4. an ancient Anglo-Saxon Kingdom in Scotland
7. people who invaded England, Ireland and Scotland, and brought pagan religions
8. a man who takes special vows to serve God
9. language spoken in Scotland
10. town where King Oswald's castle was located
12. new churches established in different areas
13. where Bishop Aidan was sent
14. an island monastery in Scotland where Aidan was a monk

Down

1. first bishop sent to Northumbria
5. ancient empire which sent people to spread Christianity to Ireland, England, and Scotland
6. king of Northumbria
11. monk elected to oversee churches in a given area

Cryptogram

St. Aidan

Decode the message by finding each substitute letter or symbol.

A	B	C	D	E	G	I	K		N	O		S								

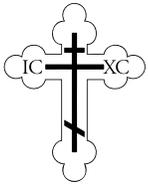
I S S S S G G
 S I N S I N
 O N I I C O I G G S G
 S I N O N
 S I N S S C O G A I
 E I I S N G I
 S N D I O S E G
 O G O I G



BLESSED PRINCE

NEVA
ALEXANDER OF THE





St. Alexander Nevsky

Defender of the Borders of Russia ✦ Patron of Soldiers

Alexander Nevsky was born into a princely family. From his early years he accompanied his father on military campaigns, and was always being prepared by his elders to be a soldier who would fight to defend the Russian Church and the Russian Land.

In thirteenth-century Russia, there was a great deal to be defended, for the country was facing attacks on two fronts. From the east came a human whirlwind, the Mongols (Tatars), fierce warriors willing to destroy everything in their path, and with furnishings so splendid that they were called the "Golden Horde." These conquerors were brutal, but they did allow the Russians to practice their Orthodox faith, so long as monetary tribute was paid.

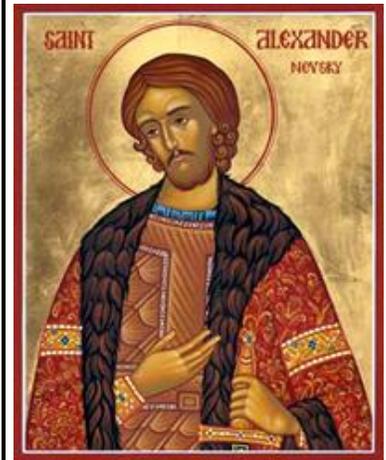
From the west came another kind of enemy - the Swedish Crusaders and the **Teutonic Knights**. Their leaders could see that the Mongol invasion had badly weakened Russia. Many of its cities were destroyed, fine young men had been lost in battle, and the people were in despair. These western armies were determined to take control of the ravaged land and to impose the Roman Catholic faith.

In 1240 the Swedes sent a convoy of ships to the Neva River. The Swedish ruler sent this message to Alexander: "Fight me if you have the courage, for I am already here and I am taking your land captive." Hearing this, Alexander, who was not yet twenty years old but already a leader, prayed for a long time in the Church of Saint Sophia. Then he and his father, with their forces, went out to face the much more numerous troops of the enemy. Alexander encouraged his soldiers by telling them, "The power of God is not in numbers, but in truth." He relied on God to help them defeat this "king of Roman faith from the midnight land."

The Russians won the battle, and because it took place on the Neva River, Alexander was called "Nevsky" from then on. But just two years later, in April of 1242, his courage was tested again when the Teutonic Knights attacked, intending to "make subjects of the whole **Slavic** nation." This time the battle took place on the frozen surface of Lake Chud. The deafening noise made by the crash of spears and swords, the spilled blood on the ice making the surface even more slippery, and the cries of wounded and dying soldiers were all terrifying. At one point, the exhausted Knights tried to rally in a corner of the lake and the ice cracked beneath them, drowning many.

Once again the Russian troops were victorious, in what was to be known in history as the Great Battle on the Ice. Alexander's name became famous "through all the lands, from the Egyptian Sea to Mount Ararat, from both sides of the Varangian Sea to Great Rome." The western borders of the Russian land, and its Orthodox faith, were secured. Alexander and his father now turned to the Mongol threat in the east. They made a long, arduous journey to meet the ruling **Khan** and form an alliance with him, offering him the required tribute.

In the following years, after his father's death, Alexander would make two more such journeys. The travel was difficult enough, but the need to be careful in negotiations was equally demanding. The prince had to be respectful to the Khan, but still firm in protecting his country from invasion. As one observer said, this required "the



Quote

The power of God is not in numbers, but in truth.

- St. Alexander Nevsky

Date Died

November 14, 1263 in Gorodets, Russia

Place Buried

Nativity Monastery in Vladimir, Russia

Commemoration Date

November 23

meekness of an angel and the wisdom of a snake." Alexander was successful, showing that he had not only the skills of a soldier but also those of a diplomat.

In a few years, Alexander became Great Prince of All Rus (the ancient name for Russia.) He spent the rest of his life fighting attacks from Germany, making peace with Norway, campaigning in Finland, and in general protecting Russia's borders. He also continued his peace efforts with the Mongols, and in 1261 a diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church was established in Sarai, the Mongol capital. Saint Alexander Nevsky's next diplomatic journey, to Sarai, was to be his last. He became gravely ill on the trip home, and was not able to reach his destination, Vladimir. He stopped at a monastery in Gorodets and died there on November 14, 1263. Metropolitan Cyril, his spiritual father and frequent companion, said at the funeral, "There will be no greater prince in the Russian land." The saint's body was taken to Vladimir and was buried in the Nativity Monastery. He was glorified at the Moscow Cathedral in 1547.

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Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Christ revealed you, O Blessed Alexander, As a new and glorious worker of wonders;
A man and a prince well pleasing to God And a divine treasure of the Russian Land.
Today we assemble in faith and love To glorify God by joyously remembering you.
He granted you the grace of healing, Therefore entreat Him to strengthen
your suffering spiritual children, And to save all Orthodox Christians.

Kontakion *(Tone 8)*

We honor you as a most radiant spiritual star,
Rising up from the east; going down in the west!
As you enriched the Russian people with good works and miracles,
So now enlighten us who remember you in faith, O blessed Alexander.
Today as we celebrate your falling asleep, we ask you to beseech the Lord
That He may strengthen His suffering servants and save all Orthodox Christians!

Key Terms

Teutonic Knights: A Roman Catholic crusading military order, originating in Germany.

Slavic: The peoples or languages of eastern, southeastern and central Europe.

Khan: The title given to a ruler among the Mongols. The most famous is Genghis Khan, who conquered much of central Asia and lived from 1167 to 1227.





Journal Prompts

St. Alexander Nevsky ✦ Defender of the borders of Russia ✦ Patron of Soldiers

1. St. Alexander had to make long, exhausting trips to meet the khans, the Mongol rulers. Then he had to behave humbly, offering tribute and asking those rulers to be lenient with the Russian people. Which of these two things, the tiring trips or the humbling meetings, would be harder for you?

2. What do you consider to be St. Alexander's most important accomplishment? Why did you choose the thing you did?

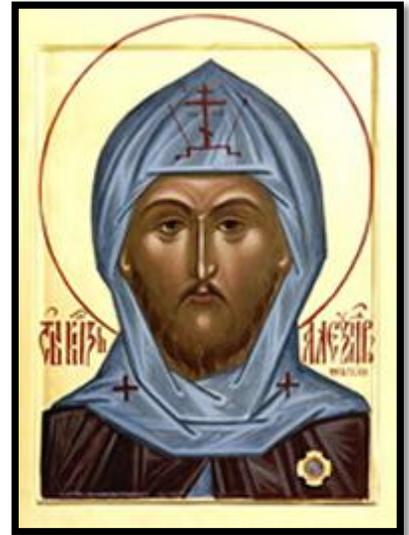
3. What specific difficulties did St. Alexander encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Alexander Nevsky living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?

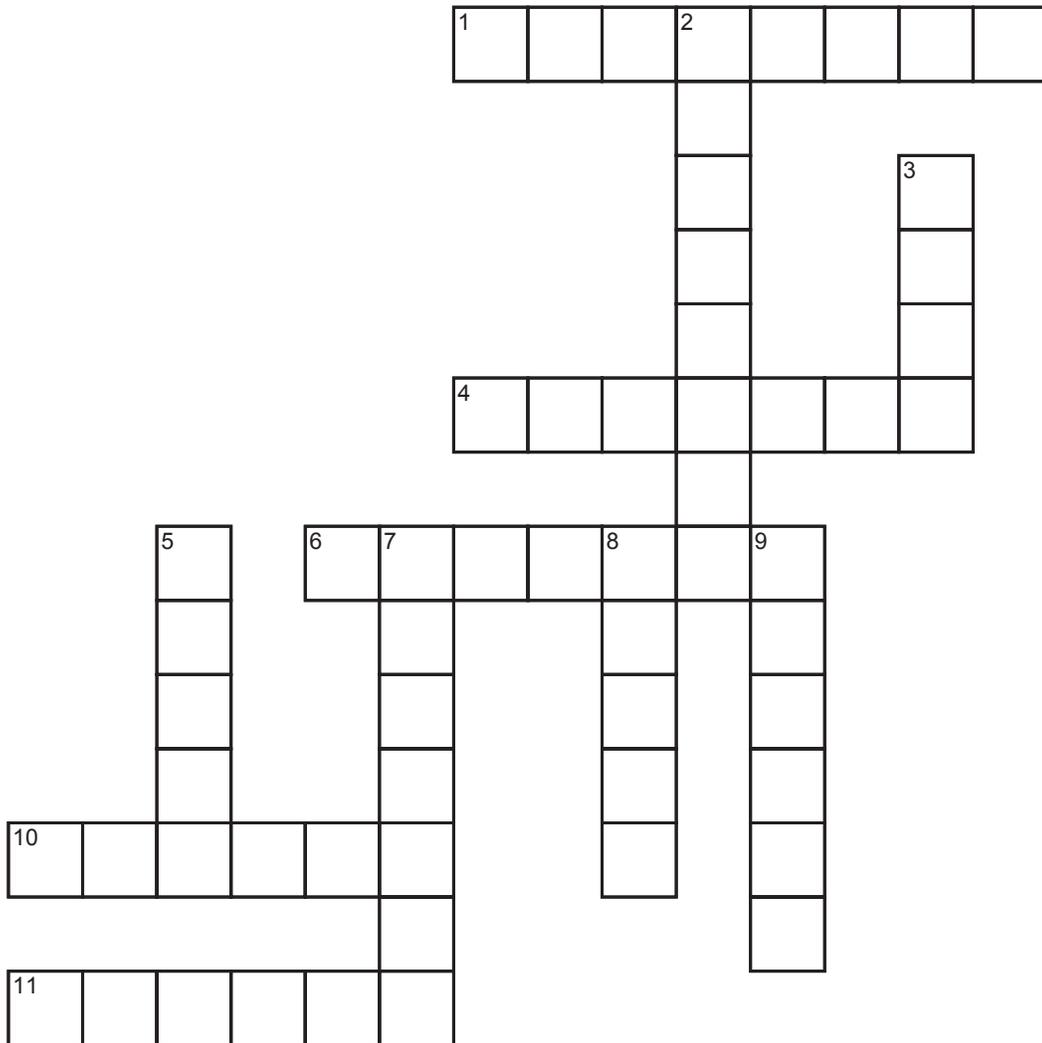


St. Alexander Nevsky's Travels



Crossword Puzzle

St. Alexander Nevsky



ACROSS

- 1 The place St. Alexander Nevsky was trying to reach on his final trip home from the Mongol capital
- 4 The home country of the crusading military order
- 6 Part of the name of a crusading military order
- 10 The title held by St. Alexander Nevsky
- 11 Another name for the Mongols

DOWN

- 2 A person who works for the good of his or her country by conducting dealings with other countries
- 3 What St. Alexander did before his great battles
- 5 The Mongol capital
- 7 St. Alexander said God's power is not in this word, but in truth
- 8 Part of the name given to the Mongol
- 9 A country that attacked Russia



Fill In The Blanks

St. Alexander Nevsky

Unscramble the words in the Word Bank, then use them to fill in the blanks and complete the sentences. Read the story to find the answers.

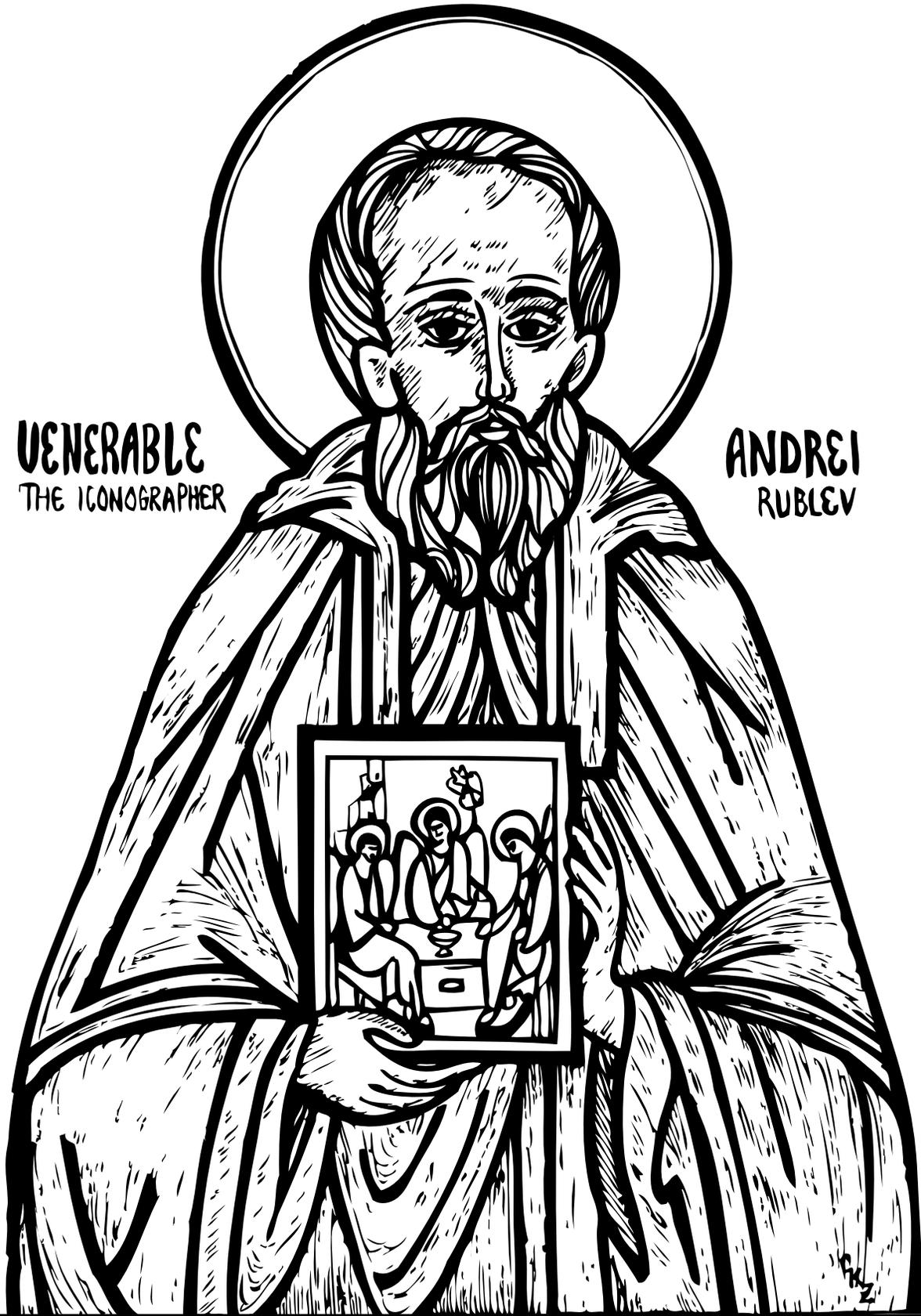
1. From his early years, Saint Alexander was raised to be a _____.
2. The Mongols had such rich furnishings that they were called the _____ Horde.
3. Saint Alexander was called "Nevsky" because his battle was on the _____ River.
4. Alexander's victory over the Teutonic Knights was called the "Great _____ on the Ice."
5. Mongol rulers were given the title _____.
6. It was said that in dealing with the Mongols, Alexander needed the _____ of a snake.
7. He also needed the meekness of an _____.
8. On his final journey home, Saint Alexander became ill. He stopped, and died, at a _____.

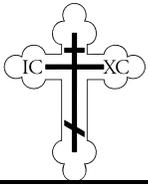
Word Bank

haKn, tetBal, sredilo, genla, delGon,
eystanmor, dswmoi, avNe

VENERABLE
THE ICONOGRAPHER

ANDREI
RUBLEV





St. Andrei Rublev

Venerable Iconographer

The late 14th century was a time of fear, confusion and fighting in Russia. The Black Death, the hideous plague that killed thousands of people, had struck Russia. The **Tatars**, who had invaded and subdued the people as conquerors many years before, still terrorized much of the country. There were also civil disturbances, as local feuding principalities fought for control of their areas.

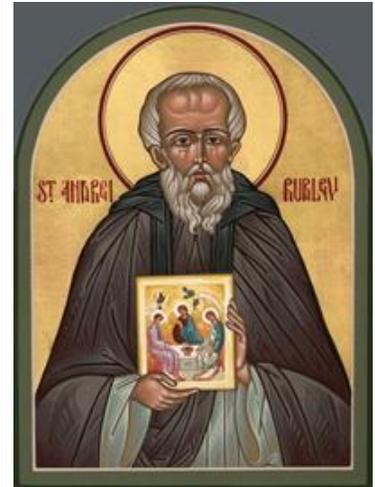
Andrei Rublev was born somewhere near Moscow during this troubled time. Though we know little about his early life, his surname, Rublev, is related to a word that means "worker with leather." So perhaps his family history inclined him to artistic ability and interest. And though his young years must certainly have been affected by all the turmoil around him, he also had wonderful spiritual guidance. The most significant influence was that of Saint Sergius of Radonezh, whom Andrei knew well. In fact, Andrei spent much of his childhood in the monastery known as the Holy Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra, which was founded and headed by Saint Sergius.

Russia's monasteries had an important role to play in this difficult time. Monks and nuns constantly prayed for the country and her people. Their presence and their prayer, even if people did not know them or see them, reminded everyone that God is with His children even in the worst of times. In addition, the monasteries were centers of learning, and the written and visual arts were kept alive in them. Andrei spent his years in the Holy Trinity Monastery practicing and deepening his faith, having before him the examples of the great monks who lived there. During these years he was preparing to become a monk himself. Known to be calm and quiet in his personal life, he spent most of his time in prayer and worship, and in his work.

Andrei received a blessing from his superiors to travel to another monastic community, the Andronikov Monastery in Moscow, and there he was **tonsured** a monk. For the next several years he studied and worked with a master iconographer, Theophanes the Greek. He became friends with another iconographer, Daniel, and in the future they would often work together on major projects.

In 1405, Andrei with Theophanes and another iconographer named Prochorus were called on to create icons and frescoes (wall or ceiling paintings in which the paint is applied to plaster) for the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Moscow. Three years later, Andrei and his friend Daniel painted frescoes in the Dormition Cathedral in Vladimir. In that same year, 1408, Andrei returned to the Holy Trinity Monastery in which he had grown up. The Tatars had destroyed it, and Andrei and Daniel were given the job of painting the monastery's new church.

It was during this period that Andrei completed his most famous icon, the Holy Trinity, which was painted for the monastery church. It depicts the visit to Abraham of three angels, described in Genesis 18, so it is sometimes called the "Hospitality of Abraham." But it is also understood as showing us the Holy Trinity, grouped in a circular pattern and radiating peaceful and complete love, blessing, and at the same time great power. Saint Sergius, who was a model of holiness for Andrei, had said that "contemplation of the Holy Trinity would conquer the hateful fear of this world's dissensions." The Trinity is undivided, yet each of the Divine Persons is completely free. This was the example



Quote

Andrei Rublev painted (his famous icon of the Holy Trinity) not only to share the fruits of his own meditation on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, but also to offer his fellow monks a way to keep their hearts centered in God while living in the midst of political unrest.

- *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*, Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen

Date Died

January 29, 1430

Place Buried

Under the Savior Cathedral of Andronikov Monastery in Moscow

Commemoration Date

July 4

that Russia needed, with its warring internal factions and so many threats from outside. Andrei Rublev expressed all of this in his icon, which is now in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

Saint Andrei continued working at the Andronikov Monastery until he died there, in 1430. He was buried under the Savior Cathedral of the monastery, and some of his icons are there to this day. The Cathedral itself, which had been taken over by the Communist government, was returned to the Orthodox Church and reopened in the early 1990's. The frescoes that Saint Andrei had painted on its walls are gone, but we can still feel the power of this "brilliant beacon shining on the world with the light of the Trinity," as the Troparion describes him.

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- Icon by the Hand of Matthew D. Garrett on page 1 of Journal Prompts

Troparion *(Tone 3)*

Shining with the rays of divine light,
O venerable Andrei,
You knew Christ the wisdom and power of God.
By means of the image of the Holy Trinity
You preached to all the world the Holy Trinity in unity.
And we, with amazement and joy, cry out to you:
As you have boldness before the Most Holy Trinity
Pray that the Uncreated Light May illumine our souls!

Kontakion *(Tone 2)*

Like a trumpet, you clearly sounded the sweetness of divine hymns,
And were revealed as a brilliant beacon
Shining on the world with the light of the Trinity.
Therefore, we all cry to you, venerable Andrei:
"Unceasingly pray for us all."

Key Terms

Tatars: (*sometimes spelled Tartars*): Mongolian and Turkic tribes who invaded central and western Asia as well as eastern Europe in the Middle Ages. The control of the Tatars in Russia was sometimes referred to as the "Mongol yoke."

Lavra: a Greek word, meaning a monastery. Originally it was used to describe a cluster of cells for monks, with a church and sometimes a communal eating place attached.

Tonsure: Part of the process of becoming a monastic, in which the hair is cut as an offering to God.



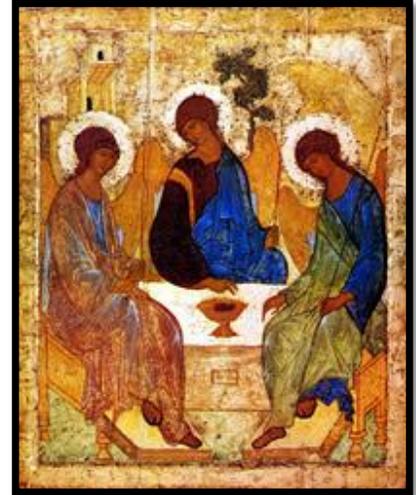


Journal Prompts

St. Andrei Rublev ✠ Venerable Iconographer

1. In writing about monks and nuns, some have said that their main work is praying, and praying is hard work. Do you agree? Why or why not? Is praying ever "hard work" for you?

2. How do you think St. Andrei's icon of the Holy Trinity could help other monks, or other people, "keep their hearts centered in God while living in the midst of political unrest?"



3. What specific difficulties did St. Andrei encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

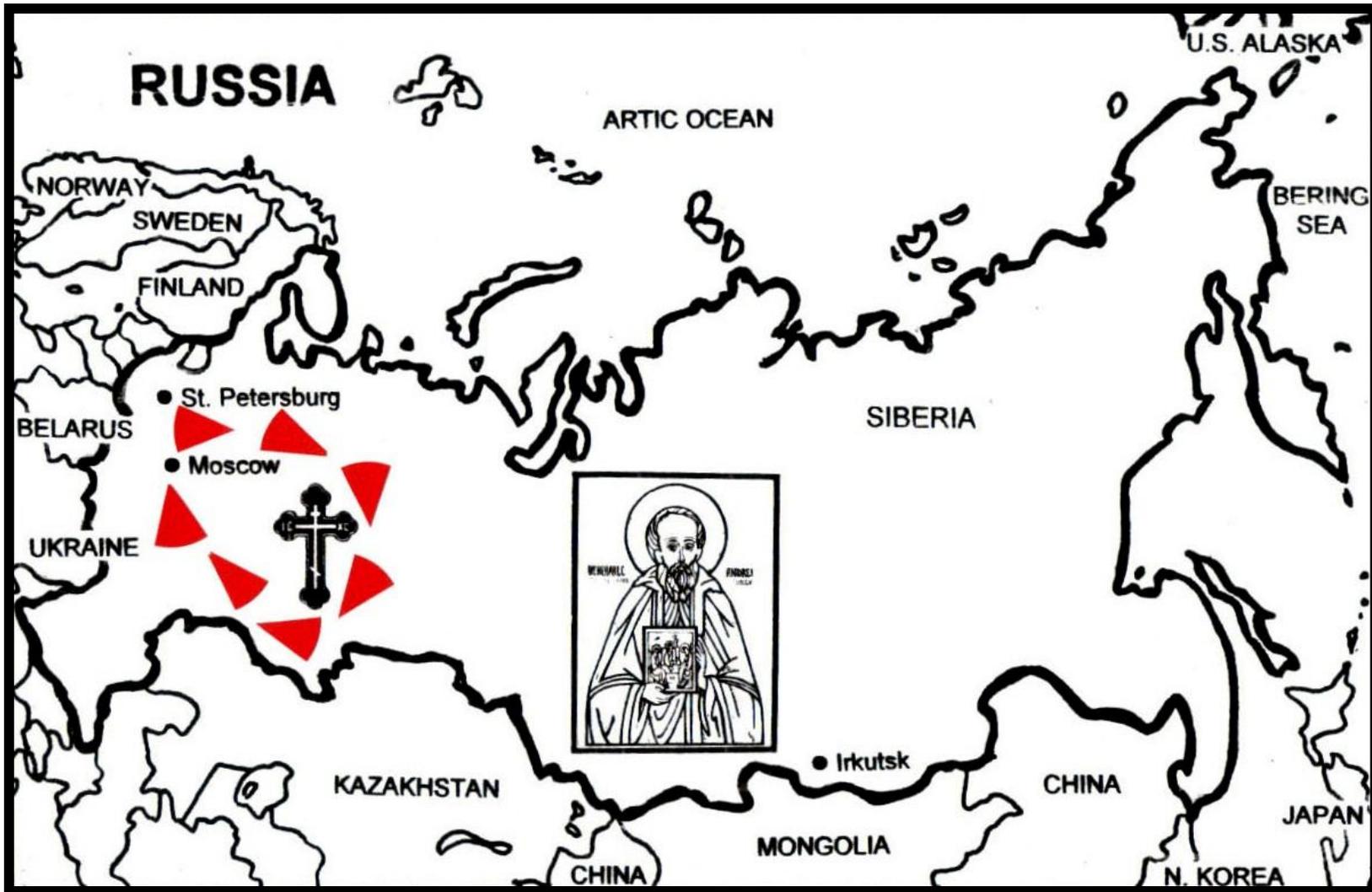
4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Andrei Rublev living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?

St. Andrei Rublev's Travels



Go With The Numbers

St. Andrei Rublev

Here is some simple math. When you have done the math, write the words in the numbered spaces. You will have a description of Saint Andrei Rublev's best-known work.

$40 - 30 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ showing}$

$9 - 8 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ Holy}$

$10 + 70 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ all}$

$24 + 20 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ us}$

$61 - 8 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ most}$

$6 + 3 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ Trinity}$

$30 + 7 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ icons}$

$2 + 1 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ of}$

$28 - 5 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ Russian}$

$2 + 4 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ the}$

$8 + 8 = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ famous}$

$6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 53 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 16 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 80 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 23 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$37 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 10 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 44 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad 9 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Write your sentence here:

Missing Vowels

St. Andrei Rublev

We know that Saint Andrei Rublev was both a monk and an iconographer.

Supply the vowels - A, E, I, O or U -

where they belong in the words that follow,
and you will be reminded of something important.

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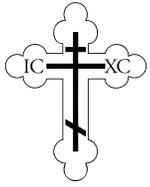
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**SAINT
THE**

**BARBARA
NUN**





St. Barbara

Nun-Martyr ❖ Cell Attendant to St. Elizabeth

Barbara Yakovlena was a maidservant to the Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia and her husband, Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrovich. When the Grand Duke was assassinated in 1905, Elizabeth founded the convent of Saints Martha and Mary in Moscow.

On April 15, 1910, Mother Elizabeth became the superior or abbess of the convent. Barbara, whose nickname was Varya, also took the vows of a **nun** and became one of her novices. Together the women of the convent devoted their lives to prayer and fasting, as well as helping the poor and sick.

Their charitable work, begun with the blessing from St. Patriarch Tikhon, was well-known and spread throughout Moscow and Russia from World War I through the Bolshevik **Revolution**. They took food to the poor, opened a home for women with tuberculosis, founded a hospital and school, and set up homes to care for those who were disabled, widowed, or elderly. They also founded an orphanage to care for homeless children.

The Bolshevik Revolution began in 1917. All members of the Tsar's family and other royal family members were arrested or exiled (sent out of Russia). Tsar Nicholas and his family were sent to Siberia. In April of 1918, Patriarch Tikhon paid a visit to the convent. Mother Elizabeth, her fellow nuns, and other members of the royal family were rounded up and arrested. The nuns who were not royalty were to be released. Nuns Barbara and Catherine begged their captors to allow them to accompany Mother Elizabeth, but were refused.

These two brave women got on their knees and begged to be with their superior. The soldiers allowed Nun Barbara to join her beloved Mother, but only after signing an agreement that she would be willing to die with her. She did, saying, "I agree to give you the requested signature, not only in ink but, if necessary, in my own blood." The soldiers, stunned at this loyalty in the face of possible death, allowed Nun Barbara to join her beloved Mother Elizabeth, and Nun Catherine was released. The two women, Mother Elizabeth and Nun Barbara, were reunited and sent to Ekaterinburg, and then to Alapaevsk, in Siberia.

While imprisoned, Mother Elizabeth and Nun Barbara prayed and ministered to the others. The members of the royal family as well as the soldiers who guarded them were deeply impressed by their constant prayer, many times finding them in prayer all night. The two women also impressed their captors by their dignified manner and their care for the other prisoners, who all knew they did not have long to live.

On July 18, 1918, Mother Elizabeth, Nun Barbara and members of the royal family were awakened, and taken by cart to a deep, flooded mineshaft. They were thrown down the shaft, and thought to have drowned. Instead, the soldiers heard hymns sung from the bottom of the shaft! Despite agonizing pain and suffering, their singing continued for many hours, to the amazement of their captors.



Quote

I agree to give you the requested signature, not only in ink but, if necessary, in my own blood.
- St. Barbara

Date Died

July 5, 1918 Near Alopevsk, Siberia

Place Buried

Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem

The relics of the **martyrs**, or those killed for their faith, were later recovered and sent to China, where they remained until 1920. Later that year, the relics of St. Elizabeth and St. Barbara were reverently brought to Jerusalem and buried at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (that St. Elizabeth had once visited), where they remain to this day.

References

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Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Emulating the Lord's self-abasement on the earth,
You gave up royal mansions to serve the poor and disdained,
Overflowing with compassion for the suffering,
And taking up a martyr's cross, In your meekness,
You perfected the Saviour's image within yourself.
Therefore with Barbara, entreat
Him to save us all, O wise Elizabeth.

Kontakion *(Tone 3)*

In the midst of worldliness,
your mournful heart dwelt in Heaven; in barbaric godlessness,
Your valiant soul was not troubled;
You longed to meet your Bridegroom as a confessor,
And He found you worthy of your martyric purpose.
O Elizabeth, with Barbara, Your brave companion,
Pray to your Bridegroom for us.

Key Terms

Martyr: A person who is killed for his or her faith.

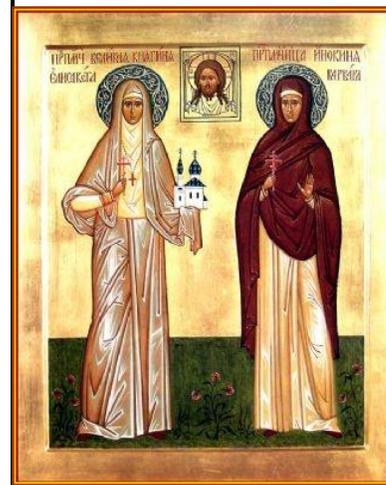
Nun: A woman who takes monastic vows.

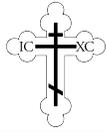
Revolution: A civil war overthrowing a country's government.

Special Thanks

✙ V. Rev. Archimandrite Nektarios Serfes for both information and photos

✙ V. Rev. John Perich, MA, Russian History





Journal Prompts

St. Barbara ✦ Holy & Righteous Nun-Martyr Barbara ✦ New Martyr of Russia

1. St. Barbara was a faithful Orthodox Christian from the time she was very young. Later, she was an extraordinarily faithful servant to her mistress, and later superior, Grand Duchess Elizabeth. When she begged her captors to allow her to remain with Sister Elizabeth, she signed an agreement that she would be willing to die with her. Describe her feelings as she was about to sign her life away.

2. Have you ever been with your friends and a disagreement happened between them? How did you react? Did you have to take sides or defend one of them to the other, even at the risk of losing one of them as a friend? What did you do or say? What were the results? How did you feel?

3. What specific difficulties did St. Barbara encounter as she tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

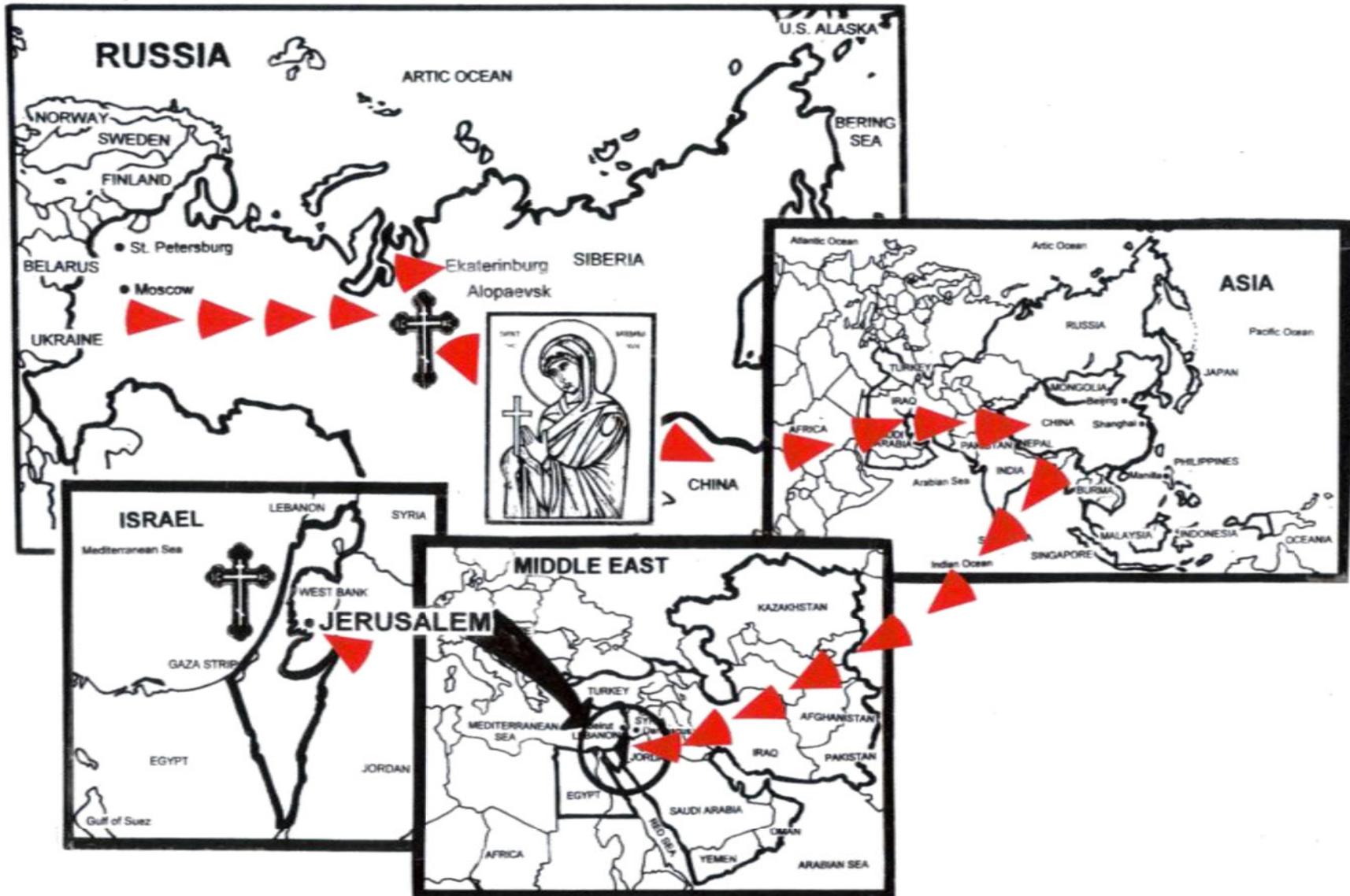
5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Barbara living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



St. Barbara's Travels



Word Search

St. Barbara

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

S T B A R M H B A R A O F R U
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A A Y Y K Q B F A V O C S U S

Barbara

Catherine

China

convent

hymns

Jerusalem

maidservant

martyr

mineshaft

nun

revolution

Siberia

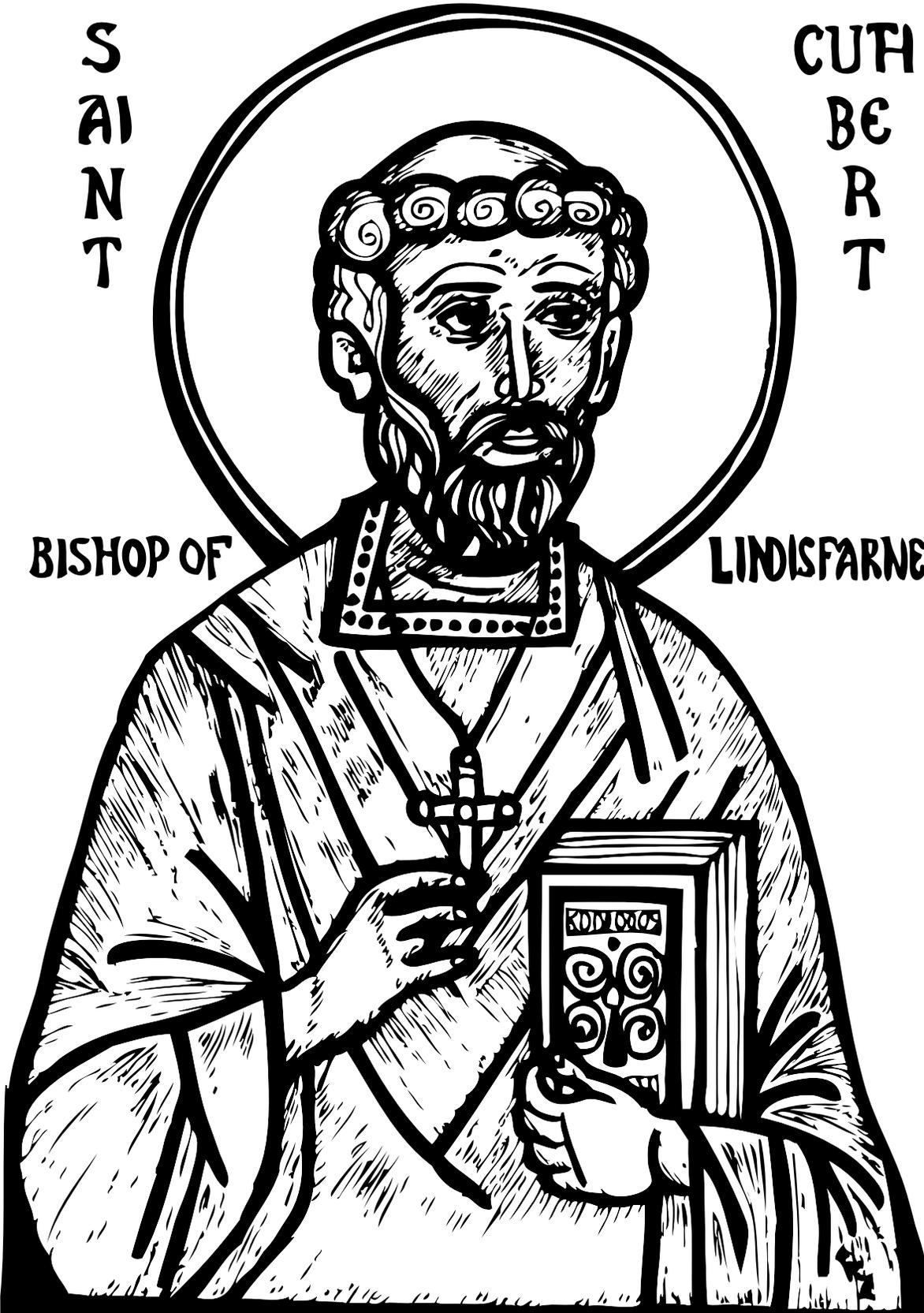


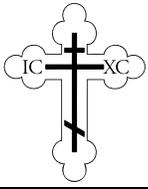
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St. Cuthbert

Bishop of Lindisfarne ✦ Wonderworker of Britain

Disease is a frightening thing. Many centuries ago, diseases were far more likely to kill people than they are in our day of powerful medicines and treatments. In the 7th century, disease caused by infected insects spread across several countries and killed many people. This was a crisis for the Church, because as people watched loved ones and neighbors die from a disease no one could cure, some doubted that God truly loves and cares for His people.

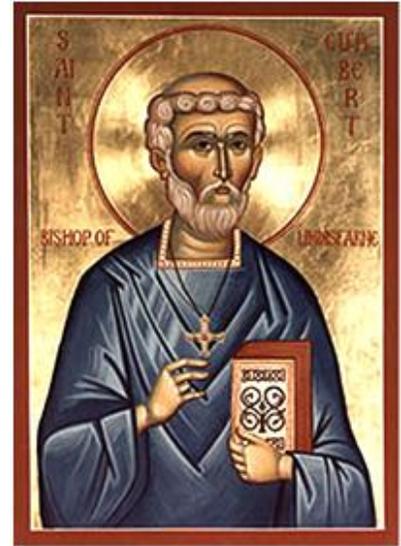
Cuthbert was born in Northumbria, Scotland about 635, during this difficult time, and was raised by a foster family. Throughout his life, Cuthbert experienced many **visions**, or signs from God. As a young boy, he was very athletic and excelled at outdoor games, often showing off and defeating anyone who played with him. When he was about eight years old Cuthbert was displaying his talents to his friends. A small boy became extremely upset at some of his dangerous physical stunts. The boy told him his behavior was unbecoming for a bishop! Cuthbert stopped what he was doing, comforted the crying child, and thought about what the boy had told him. Though puzzled by the message, from that point on he became more serious. Cuthbert later injured his knee, becoming almost totally lame, or disabled. A visit from a man dressed in white on horseback (whom he later realized was an angel) cured him. At age 15 he served in King Oswald's army to defend Bamburg castle (See St. Aidan).

In 651 young Cuthbert became a shepherd. While tending his master's flock one evening, he looked up in the sky and saw angels carrying a soul to Heaven. He later learned that, at that very moment, St. Aidan had passed away. Believing this to be a sign, Cuthbert entered the monastery of Old Melrose, under the abbot, or ruling monk, St. Eata (October 26), and prior, or assistant, St. Boisil (February 23). Cuthbert became a monk and was well - known for his obedience, piety and humility. (See St. Aidan)

In 661, King Alchfirth of Deira founded a new monastery at Ripon. Cuthbert was sent there and became **guest master**, tending to the needs of many visitors. Cuthbert later returned to Melrose, where he was made prior after St. Boisil died from the **plague**. The disease, which was killing so many, struck Melrose as well, and Cuthbert himself became very ill. He managed to survive, which was very unusual, since contracting the plague usually meant certain death. However the effects of the dreaded disease left his health very weak. But Cuthbert's faith in God was not lessened - he continued to pray for the ill and dying, and to be an example to those whose belief in God's love and power had been shaken.

In 664, Cuthbert joined St. Eata and went to Lindisfarne monastery, where he also became prior, and later loving abbot of the monastery. As his visions continued, Cuthbert's reputation grew throughout the region, and he continued his missionary work in Northumbria and Durham, ministering to the needs of the people, healing the sick, and driving out demons. Like St. Herman of Alaska, Cuthbert lived a solitary life, and had a special fondness for animals. One evening Cuthbert went out to the sea to pray alone. A fellow monk watched as he prayed all night. The next morning the amazed monk witnessed two small sea otters come ashore to warm Cuthbert's feet. Cuthbert's visions and miracles continued, earning him the name, "Wonderworker of Britain."

Cuthbert wanted to live a solitary life near the sea, and eventually moved to an island near Lindisfarne, where (like St. Herman) he built a small cell, or room and lived the life of a hermit. There he continued his life of fasting and prayer for nine years. In 684



Quote

When God wishes, He will show you.

- St. Cuthbert said to his monk-aide upon his death.

Date Died

March 20, 687 on Farne Island

Place Buried

Chapel of Nine Altars
- Durham, England

Commemoration Date

March 20

Cuthbert was elected bishop of Lindisfarne. He did not want this position, and accepted it reluctantly, with much doubt. He continued to lead his very humble life, while preaching and ministering to the people of his diocese. He served as bishop for just two years before retiring to his island.

Growing weaker and knowing he would soon leave this earth, Bishop Cuthbert was unable to receive the many visitors who begged for his wisdom and blessing. The monks ministered to him, including one named Wahistod, who was miraculously healed from his own life-long illness. Bishop Cuthbert continued to advise and minister to the monks of Lindisfarne, until his death on March 20, 687.

He was buried at Lindisfarne. His relics were moved many times through the centuries due to Viking occupation, wars, and other invasions. His relics were finally laid to rest in the cathedral at Durham on August 24, 1104. They remain there to this day, where they are visited and revered by many.

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- Rees, Elizabeth, *Celtic Saints Passionate Wanderers*, New York. Thames & Hudson, 2000.

Troparion (Tone 3)

While still in thy youth thou didst lay aside all worldly care,
And didst take up the sweet yoke of Christ, O Godly-minded Cuthbert,
And thou wast shown forth in truth to be nobly radiant in the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Wherefore, God established thee as a rule of faith and shepherd of His radiant flock,
O converser with Angels and intercessor for men.

Kondakion (Tone 1)

Having surpassed thy brethren in prayers, fasting and vigils,
Thou wast found worthy to entertain a pilgrim - angel;
And having shown forth with humility as a bright lamp set on high,
Thou didst receive the gift of wonderworking.
And now as thou dwellest in the Heavenly Kingdom,
O our righteous Father Cuthbert, Intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Key Terms

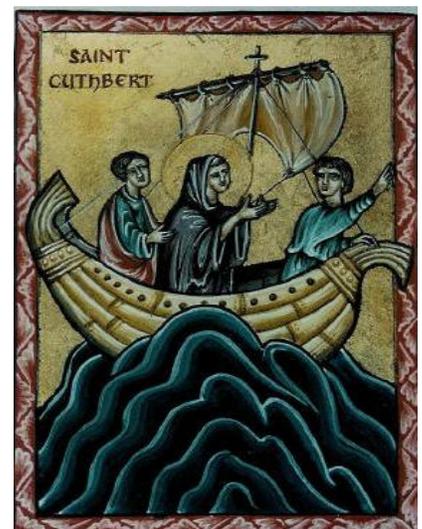
Visions: Special encounters with God through people or events

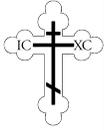
Guest Master: A monk who takes care of the needs of visitors

Plague: A deadly disease kills many people (several centuries later, in the Middle Ages, the plague would kill 60% of Europe's population--it was then called the "Black Death")

Special Thanks

✠ Alfred Siewers, Professor of Medieval Literature, Bucknell University





Journal Prompts

St. Cuthbert ✦ Bishop of Lindisfame ✦ Wonderworker of Britain

1. St. Cuthbert had many visions in his life which led him to monasticism. He was also called to minister to people. Compare him to St. Herman of Alaska, who spent a great deal of time alone on Spruce Island, communicating with nature and the animals inhabiting there. Do you think St. Cuthbert would have been famous as a saint if he continued his life of solitude? Why or why not?

2. Sometimes we feel like we want to be alone. Has this ever happened to you? Describe what caused you to want to be alone, and what you were feeling inside. How can these feelings, as well as a little time by yourself (without the distractions of our lives), bring you closer to God?

3. Have you ever experienced some event that changed your life? Has someone said something to you that caused you to think and change the way you do things? Do you think these experiences were a sign from God? How have they helped you in your life?

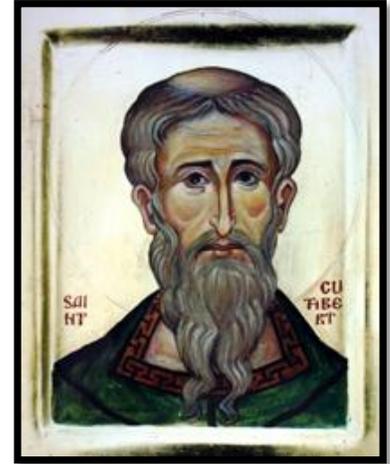
4. What specific difficulties did St. Cuthbert encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

5. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

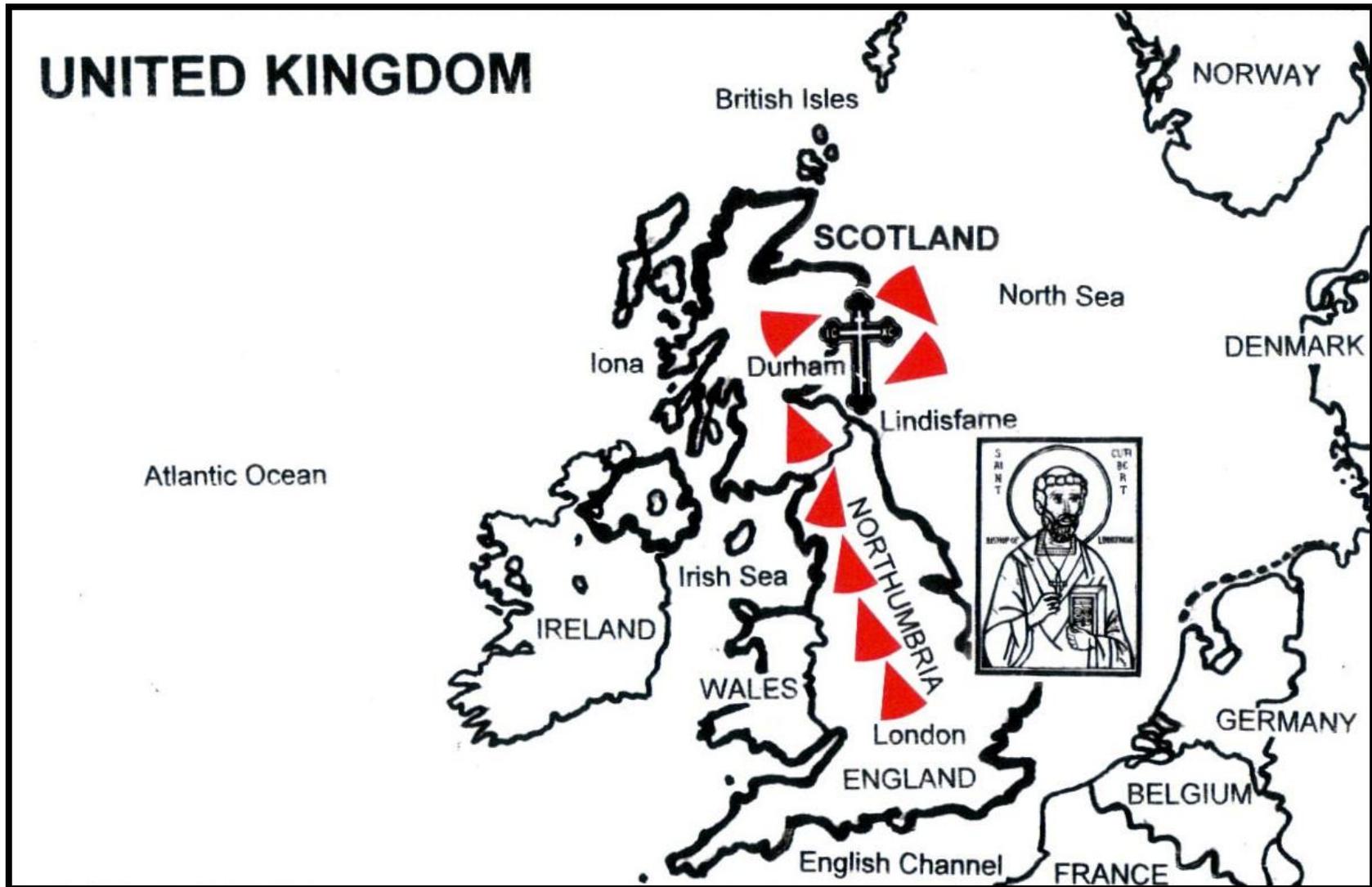
6. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

7. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Cuthbert living in times of trouble?

8. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



St. Cuthbert's Travels

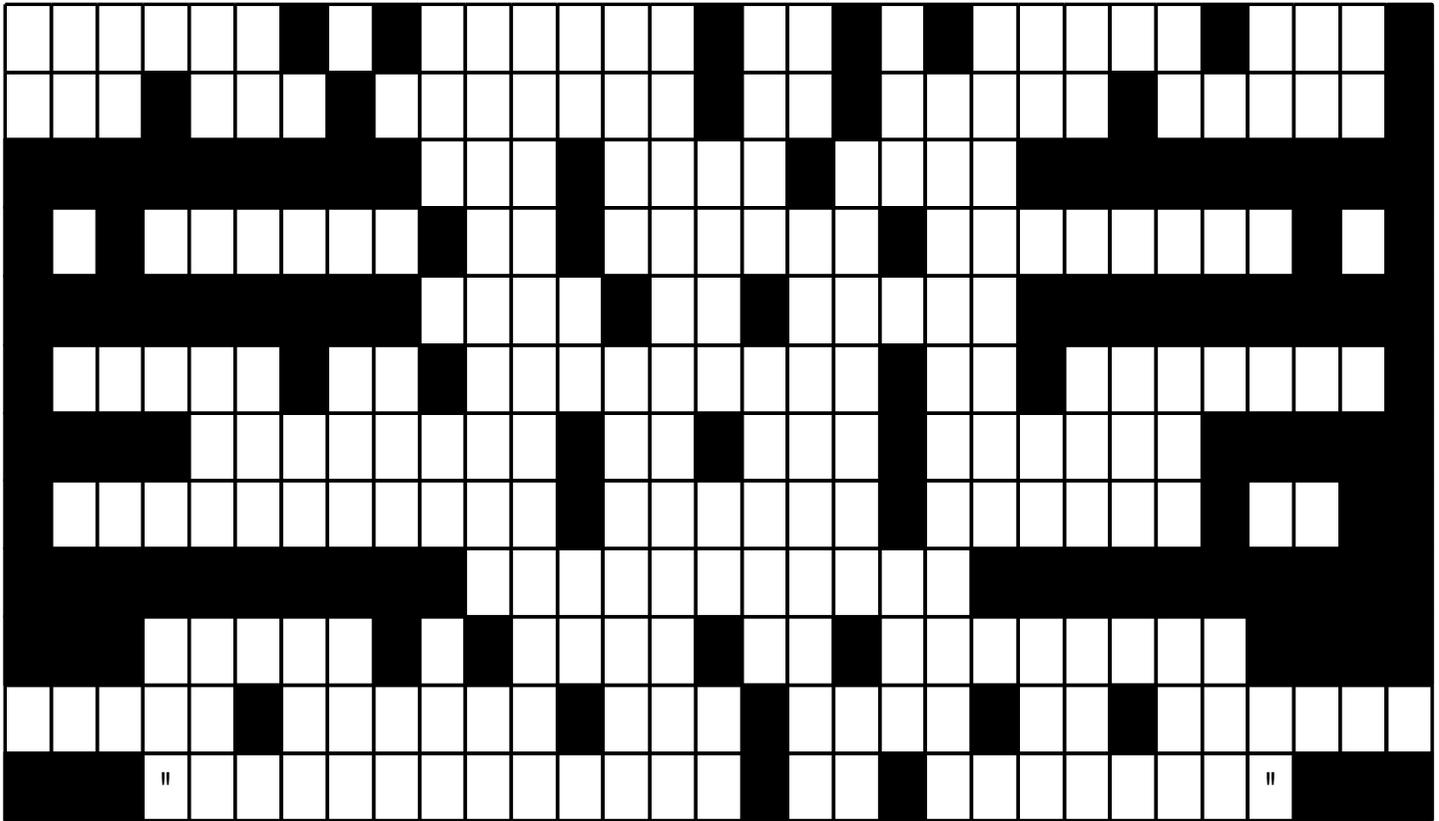


Fallen Phrase

St. Cuthbert

Find the hidden phrase by using the letters directly below each of the blank squares.

Each letter is used once.



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Word Search

St. Cuthbert

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

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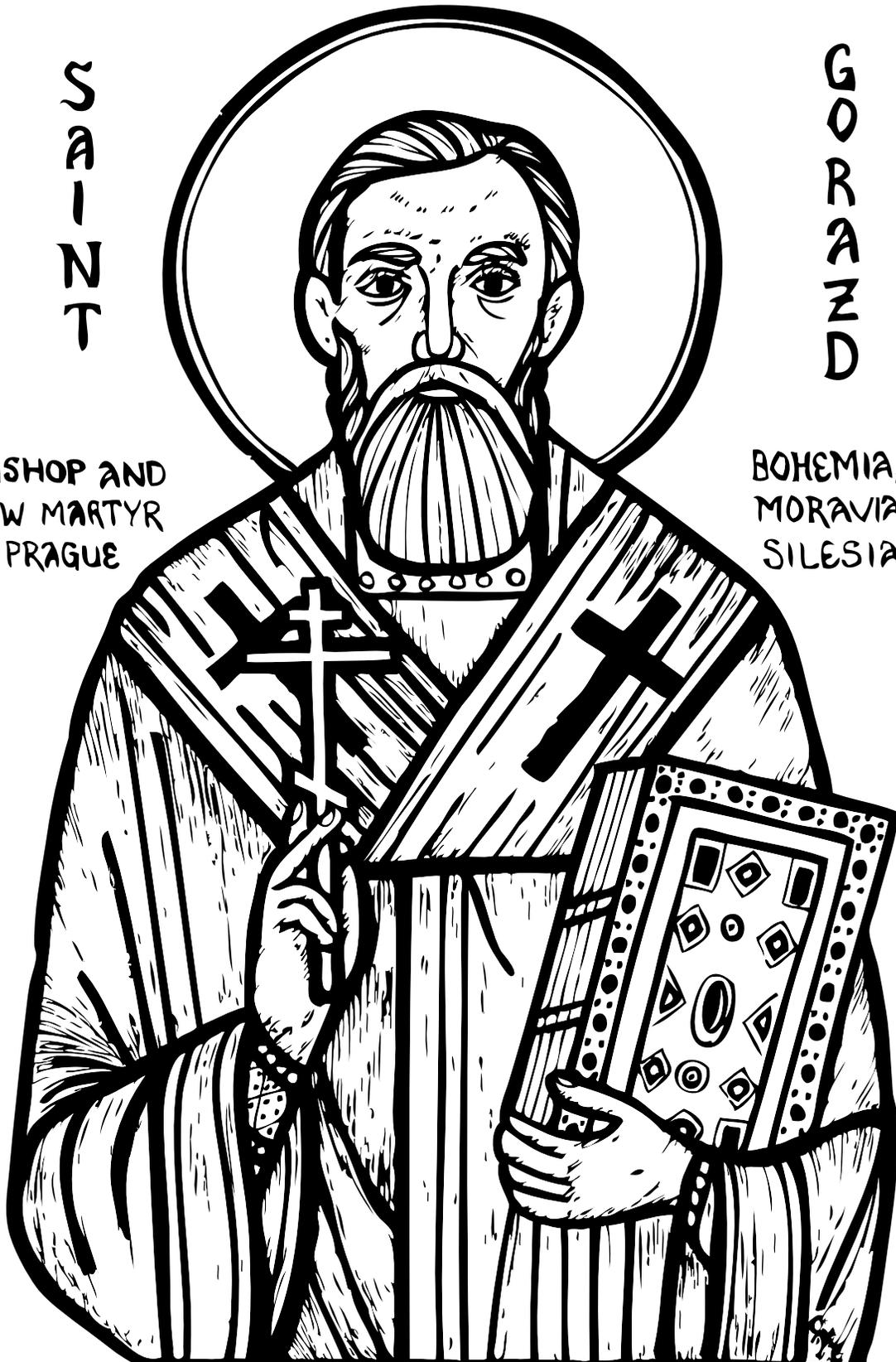
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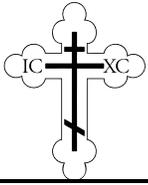
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BISHOP AND
NEW MARTYR
OF PRAGUE

BOHEMIA,
MORAVIA,
SILESIA





St. Gorazd

Bishop & New-Martyr of Prague, Bohemia, Moravia & Silesia

Matthias (Matthew) Pavlik was born in a small town in Moravia, an area of what is now the Czech Republic, in 1879. It was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, so Roman Catholicism was the dominant faith. Matthias completed his studies at the school of theology and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. But during his school years he had become interested in Orthodox Christianity and the mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius. He also visited Kiev, and learned more about Orthodoxy.

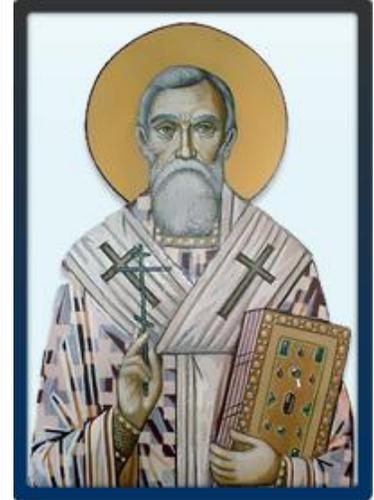
In 1918 the country of Czechoslovakia was formed, and became independent of Austro-Hungary. Many people now turned from Roman Catholicism, which they felt had been forced on them by the Empire. Some wished to become Orthodox, including Matthias Pavlik. The Serbian Orthodox Church was willing to help these people, and so it was that Matthias became an **archimandrite** in a monastery in Serbia. In 1921 he was consecrated a bishop in the Orthodox Cathedral in Belgrade, Serbia's capital. He took the name of Gorazd, an earlier saint who had carried on the work of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Bishop Gorazd took up his duties as Bishop of Moravia, his birthplace, and of Bohemia and Silesia, two areas on the borders of Moravia. For the next twenty-one years he worked at translating Orthodox service books into the Czech language and publishing books to teach the Orthodox faith. He also built eleven churches and two chapels, and encouraged young men to study for the priesthood. Members of his parishes gladly received his frequent visits, which inspired them to keep and practice their faith.

These years were not easy for Bishop Gorazd. He encountered hostility from some Roman Catholic clergy, and endured great pressure to return to the Roman faith. He never had enough money to do everything he would have liked to do. But these problems were small compared to what was to come. In 1942, the Czech Orthodox Church and Bishop Gorazd were pulled into a crisis more terrible than they could ever have imagined.

In that year, the Czech Church had been placed under the authority of Metropolitan Seraphim of Berlin, himself a convert to the Orthodox faith. The country of Czechoslovakia was governed by a Nazi official named Reinhold Heydrich, an ambitious and competent man who was seen as the likely successor to Adolf Hitler, the dictator of Germany who was conquering Europe and hoped to build a German Empire throughout the world. Heydrich was a coldly arrogant and ruthless person, so brutal in his methods that he was known as the "Butcher of Prague" and the "Hangman."

A group of Czech **partisans**, including some paratroopers trained in England, planned to assassinate Heydrich. On the morning of May 27th, 1942, two of them waited for his car to come around a sharp corner, where it would have to slow down, on a street in the center of the city. (Heydrich usually traveled unaccompanied by guards, wishing to show his fearlessness.) One partisan shot at him, but the gun jammed. The other man then threw a bomb into the car. Heydrich was not killed immediately, but a few days later he died of his internal injuries. The assassins took refuge in the **crypt** of the nearby Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Cathedral. Bishop Gorazd, who was away from Prague when he was told about this, was fearful that the whole Czech Church would be severely



Quote

For far too long we have failed to give much value to martyrdom. We think that it is better to live and toil for a great cause than to die for it. But there is nothing greater than to lay down one's life for the Gospel of Christ.

- Saint Gorazd

Date Died

September 4, 1942

Commemoration Date

August 22

punished if the men were found there. He asked that they be moved to another hiding place as soon as possible. But before that could happen, the Nazis learned where they were from an informer. Nazi troops surrounded the church, and a fierce battle followed. The Nazis shot into the crypt, and poured smoke and then huge amounts of water into it. They finally overcame and killed the men hiding there. The cathedral priests and lay leaders of the cathedral parish were arrested.

Bishop Gorazd hoped to save the lives of those who had been arrested, and to keep the Nazis from punishing the whole Church. So he tried to take the entire responsibility for the situation on himself. He wrote to the Germans: "I am giving myself up to the authorities and am prepared to face any punishment, including death."

The Nazis arrested Bishop Gorazd on June 27. He was tortured, and was put to death by firing squad on the 4th of September, as were the cathedral priests. Orthodox churches and chapels were closed, and priests were sent to concentration camps. The Nazis wanted Metropolitan Seraphim, in Berlin, to make a statement condemning Bishop Gorazd, but he refused to do so.

Retribution against the Czechs did not end with the repression of the Orthodox Church. The whole village of Lidice was destroyed, and every man, woman and child who lived there was killed or sent to a concentration camp. Countless other Czechs also died or were sent to camps. The Church would not be able to function again until the war was over, and then it had to deal with communist regimes.

Today, the Czech Orthodox Church is composed of many parishes. The beautiful Cathedral of Saints Cyril and Methodius, with its location in the center of Prague, serves a vital community with regular services and activities. It is also a tourist attraction, and in its crypt there is a small museum telling the story of the partisans, the fierce battle in 1942, and the courageous faith of its beloved bishop, Saint Gorazd.

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Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Thy Martyr, O Lord Gorazd

Hast through his sufferings obtained from Thee O our God an incorruptible crown;
For rejoicing in Thy strength, He overcame his tormentors and subdued the impotent offenses of the demons; By his intercessions O Lord save our souls.

Kontakion *(Tone 2)*

Thou hast appeared as a bright star announcing Christ with thy radiance,
Repulsive to the temporal world, O Martyr Gorazd;
Extinguishing the temporal allure of false gods,
Thou hast granted unto the faithful true light, Ever interceding for us all.

Key Terms

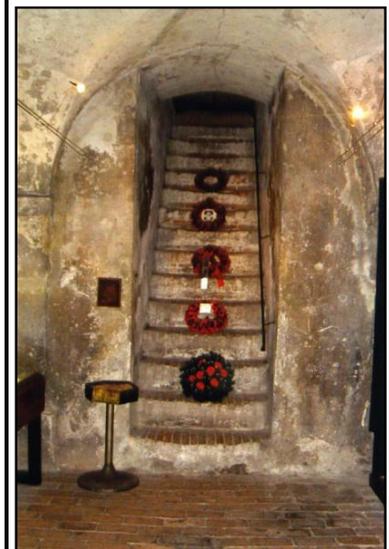
Archimandrite: a title of honor.

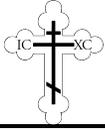
In earlier centuries it referred to the head of a large and important monastery, or of several monasteries.

Crypt: an underground chamber.

Often the crypts of churches were burial places. In times of persecution, worship services might be held in crypts to evade detection by the authorities.

Partisan: a member of a group that strongly supports one side of a dispute or war. During World War II, many Christians in European countries fought as partisans against the anti-Christian Nazis.





Journal Prompts

St. Gorazd †Bishop & New-Martyr of Prague, Bohemia, Moravia & Silesia

1. Even though St. Gorazd gave his life to protect the Church and other believers, terrible persecution and many deaths followed. Do you think he would feel his sacrifice was worthwhile? How might the quotation from St. Gorazd help determine the answer?

2. Do you think it is ever right to disobey a government? St. Gorazd did not tell the Nazis where the assassins of Heydrich were, though he knew. What do you think about his action?

3. What difficulties did St. Gorazd encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

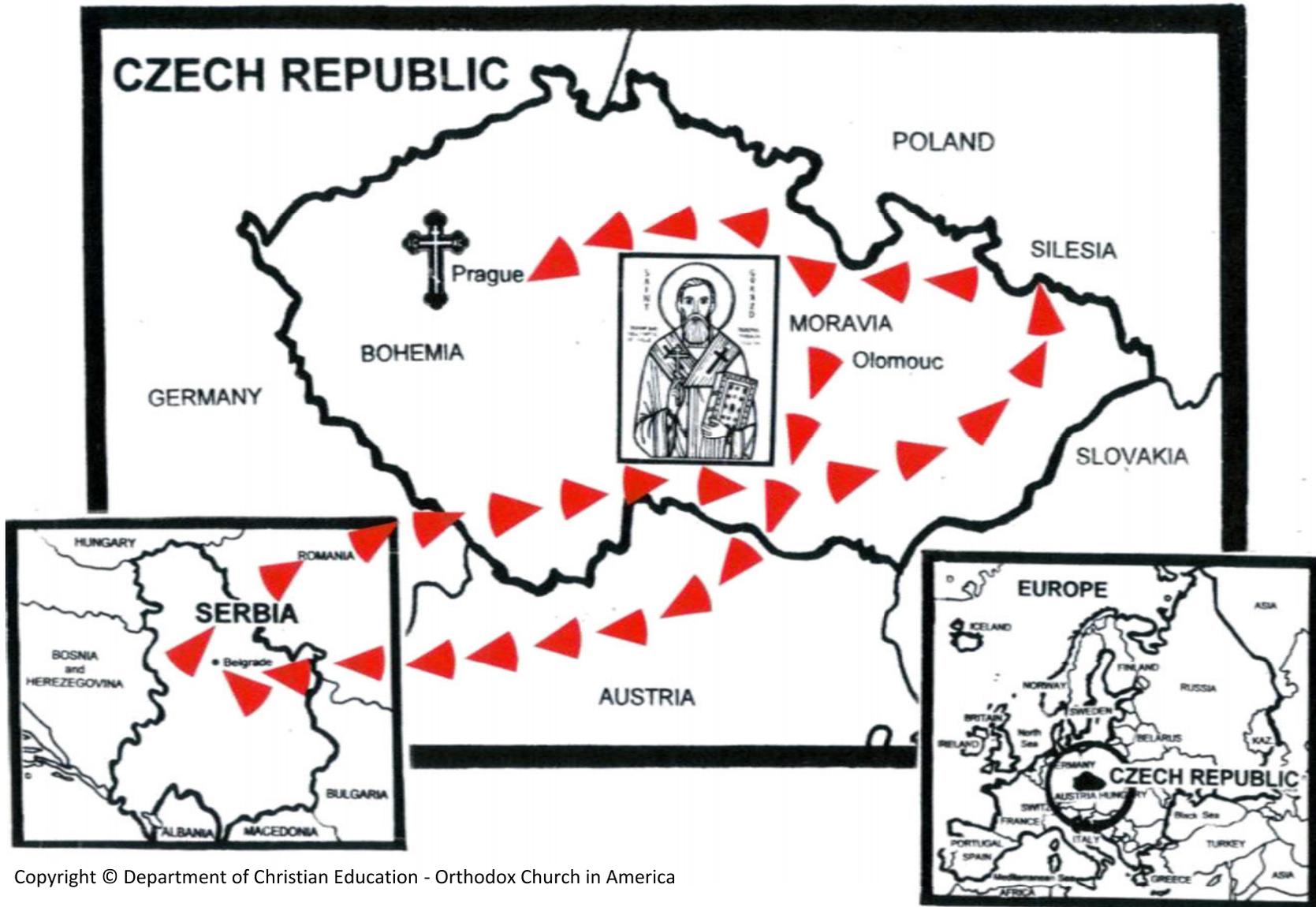
5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Gorazd living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



St. Gorazd's Travels



Gather the Letters

St. Gorazd

Fill in the correct answers to the following questions, using the word bank. At the end of each filled-in sentence is a number. The number corresponds to letters in your answer. (For example, if the answer is Gorazd and the number is 3, the letter is R. If the numbers are 1 and 4, the letters are G and A.)

1. While a student, Saint Gorazd became interested in the mission of Saints Cyril and _____. (1 and 3) (Letters are ___ and ___)
2. Saint Gorazd's field of study was _____. (2) (Letter is ___)
3. Saint Gorazd was born in _____, an area of what is now the Czech Republic. (2, 3 and 4) (Letters are ___, ___, and ___)
4. Saint Gorazd was appointed to oversee three areas: Moravia, Silesia, and _____. (1 and 6) (Letters are ___ and ___)
5. The men who killed the Nazi officer hid in the _____ of the Orthodox cathedral. (3) (Letter is ___)
6. This cathedral is in the capital city of the Czech Republic, named _____. (1 and 2) (Letters are ___ and ___)
7. The Nazis wanted the Orthodox Metropolitan in Berlin to condemn Saint Gorazd, but the Metropolitan _____ to do so. (5) (Letter is ___)

WORD BANK:

Prague, Moravia, crypt, Bohemia, refused, Methodius, theology

When you have filled in all the answers, gather the letters that the numbers give you. Arrange them to form two words of six letters each that describe Saint Gorazd.

The words are: _____ and _____

Word Find

St. Gorazd

Find these eight words in the puzzle below:

DOWN FRIENDS GREATER LAY

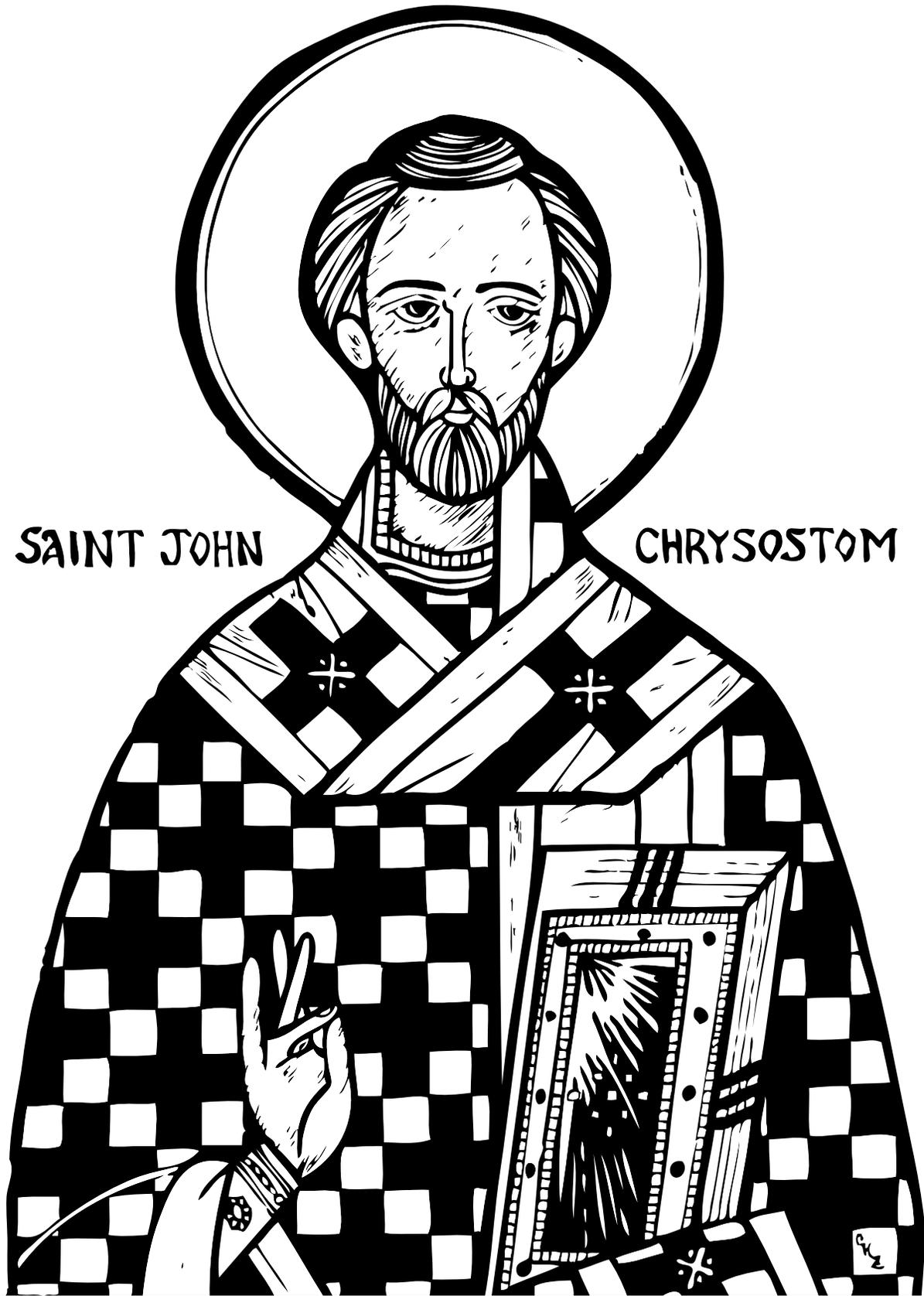
LIFE LOVE MAN THIS

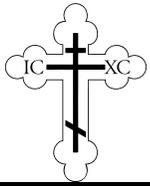
R S Y F E D T U I Q S I D W P
W J R B S H O Y K D L H C E M
C F E R I T M W N A M U Y F O
L S T S Z B Q E N C D W U M X
H L A Q A G I X L J D V J X C
K K E T V R N L R E I P P K A
Z P R I F S O Z C Y L S W Z J
A Z G S G J F P H M J Y D U E
K G D I V T N S E H J E X E X
Y E G A S A I H R A W L O V E
I A D G O L H F Q Q U Z P X R
Q F L O K R V F L L V T I S K
E W P G E I B Q I X U A X C P
Y P X U V V W G F H S G Y A M
L E H G U K Y N E Q G N R O O

**Look up John 15:13 to see where these words,
which apply so well to St. Gorazd, come from.**

SAINT JOHN

CHRYSOSTOM





St. John Chrysostom

"Golden Mouthed" Archbishop of Constantinople

You have heard the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, which is celebrated on most days in the Church year, but did you know he was the patron saint of epileptics, lecturers, preachers, and public speakers?

In 347 AD, St. John was born in Antioch to Secundus, a high ranking military officer and Anthusa, a very pious woman. At the age of twenty, St. John's mother became a widow. Because she had to raise St. John by herself, she was careful to teach him spiritual truths and good Christian practices.

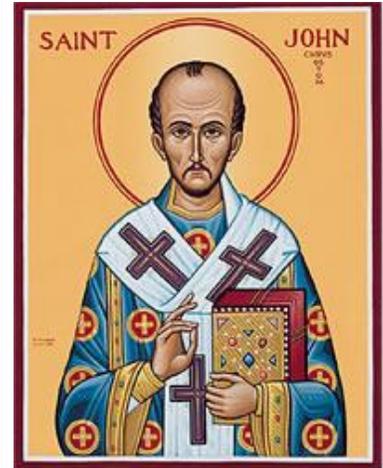
John's gifts were obvious to many. At the age of eighteen, while studying philosophy and oratory (skilled public speaking), he already felt the jealousy of some other people. One was a truly **malicious** opponent, a philosopher named Anthimus. He would slander John and encourage others to hate him. During a dispute with John, Anthimus spoke with extreme disrespect about Our Lord Jesus Christ. Suddenly, an unclean spirit fell upon Anthimus and he began foaming at the mouth. People who saw this were horrified and ran from the scene.

But the incident also showed how strong John's influence was as a true Christian. Anthimus asked John to forgive and heal him, and confessed his belief in Christ. The spirit left his body and his health was restored. Anthimus' whole household, along with many respected citizens, received baptism.

As more and more people began to know what a faithful young man he was, John realized that soon his bishop would want to ordain him to the priesthood. He did not feel ready for this great task, and so he went into the wilderness and lived an extremely simple life. He also knew that following the bishop's death, he would be consecrated to the office of bishop. What he really wanted was to become a monk. But his widowed mother begged him to wait - she did not want to be left alone, without him. But John wanted to be serious about his faith. So, at the age of almost twenty, he was baptized and was tonsured a reader. Like most people in that time, his baptism took place not when he was a baby, but when he was a young adult.

When his mother died, John followed his deep desire to live as a monk. He gave away his possessions and money to his family's servants, and went into the wilderness again, living in a cave, eating almost nothing, and praying. He had treated his body so severely that his kidneys and stomach would be weak for the rest of his life, and he finally had to come back to Antioch to regain his health. In the next few years, back in the place where he had been born, he was ordained a deacon, and then a priest.

John was a powerful speaker, and could not only inspire people but could talk to them in ways they easily understood. For this reason he was called the "Golden-Mouthed." Because he also had the ability to heal, some believed he was a magician or **warlock**. As before, John had enemies and people who were jealous of his great abilities.



Quote

Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not ignore him when he is naked. Do not pay him homage in the temple clad in silk, only then to neglect him outside where he is cold and ill - clad. He who said: "This is my body" is the same who said: "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food", and "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me" ... What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when your brother is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well.

- St. John Chrysostom

Date Died

September 14, 487 - Comana, Pontus

Commemoration Date

November 13, January 27, January 30 – The Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

John was always ready to say what he thought, and to tell people when he thought they were doing wrong. He especially criticized those who did not care for the poor, and he himself was extremely generous and charitable to those in need. His preaching and good works continued, and he became Patriarch of Constantinople. Now he fearlessly reminded even the Emperor and those in power that they must live as true followers of Jesus Christ.

One year, during Holy Week, a violent storm struck Constantinople. However, when the people returned to church and prayed, the storm ceased. But John was disappointed to see that by Holy Friday and Saturday, when the crisis had passed, the people easily returned to their old ways of living. As Patriarch, John tried very hard to keep the churches in order. He was able to get the Emperor's help in sending the **Arians** out of the city. At the same time, he continued to preach and to give to those in need. People flocked to hear his sermons, writing them down to share with others, and he was loved for his kindness and truthfulness even though he was often stern in his speech.

But he had one dangerously powerful enemy. The Empress Eudoxia, because of her luxurious lifestyle, believed John was talking about her in his sermons, and tried with the help of others to destroy him through slander and lies. Finally she managed to call the high council together and have him exiled, sent away from the city. But when an earthquake struck and filled everyone in the city with fear, she had to allow him to return. The people demanded the guidance and comfort of their beloved Patriarch in such a time of crisis.

The Empress would not give up, though. Once again, she and the members of her council had him exiled, and during this time several people tried to kill him. One man, pretending to be full of demons and needing the Patriarch's help, came at John with a hidden sword. The man was arrested, and would have been put to death. But John insisted that his life be spared.

Finally, the Empress succeeded in having John banished - permanently exiled. During this time, he suffered many torments. He spent the nights in filthy ruins, getting very little rest, and pushed along by harsh guards. He was not allowed to enter a church. The apostles Saint Peter and Saint John came to him in a vision, telling him his life would end before long.

On September 14, 407 in the city of Comana, St. John Chrysostom died on the way to his place of banishment. Shortly after this, there was a fire in the cathedral church of Constantinople, consuming the palace where the councils that had exiled him took place. The surrounding buildings remained intact. People saw this as an obvious expression of God's wrath. The fire burned for three hours, from the sixth to the ninth hour. Since no one was killed, the people believed the city was being punished, not John's friends and followers. Nevertheless, John's enemies blamed his supporters for the fire.

Since his death occurred on the feast day of the Exaltation of the Cross, his commemoration date was changed to November 13. His relics were transferred thirty years after his death to the Church of Holy Peace (Hagia Eirene). When the coffin was opened, St. John's body was incorrupt. The Empress' son asked the saint to forgive his mother's crimes against him. The next morning, the clergy saw St. John open his mouth and say, "Peace be to all," a sign of his forgiveness.

Key Terms

Arians: Supporters of Arius, who taught that Jesus Christ is a created being like us, and therefore not equal to God the Father. The Arians were clever in getting followers, and caused great trouble in the Church because they wanted to get power, and to take authority away from those followed the true Christian teaching.

Malicious: Having the nature of or resulting from malice; deliberately harmful; spiteful.

Warlock: Among historic Christian traditions, said to be the male equivalent of witches (usually in the pejorative sense of Europe's Middle Ages), and were said to ride pitchforks instead of broomsticks which normally witches would ride.

The relics were finally taken by ship to Constantinople. In 1204, his relics were stolen from Constantinople by Crusaders and brought to Rome, but they were returned to the Orthodox on November 27, 2004 by Pope John Paul II. Saint John's right hand is also preserved on Mount Athos, and numerous smaller relics are scattered throughout the world.

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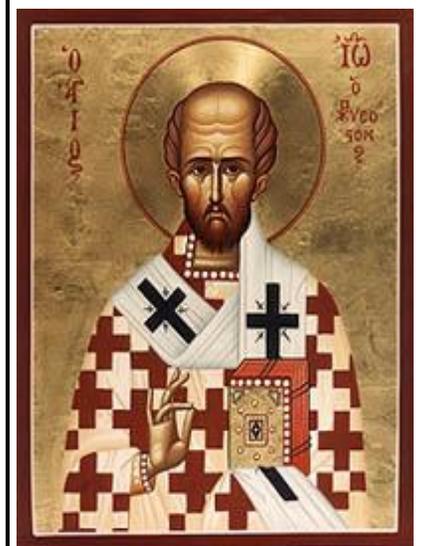
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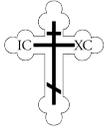
Troparion *(Tone 8)*

Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon
has enlightened the universe;
It has shone to the world the riches of poverty;
It has revealed to us the heights of humility.
Teaching us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom,
Intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Kontakion *(Tone 6)*

Having received divine grace from heaven,
You teach all men to adore the one God in three persons.
O all-blessed John Chrysostom, we rightly praise you,
For you are our teacher, revealing things divine!





Journal Prompts

St. John Chrysostom ✝ “Golden Mouthed” Archbishop of Constantinople

1. How would you feel if your parents were to select your future career?
How would you respond to their asking?

2. Would you defend someone that hurt you, physically or emotionally, if they were wrongly accused? What would you say to the accusers?

3. What difficulties did St. John encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. John Chrysostom living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



St. John Chrysostom's Travels



Cross Word Puzzle

St. John Chrysostom

Find the words related to the life of St. John

E S M Z G M L T Q A L E W Q A
S L D S P E F N Q T H J O N U
A S P U P N M E L R O I T F E
A Y E O R S H M D H G H J A F
E N A R N E W H N T U Q N I M
Z Y T A P I L S W S S O M X O
S F I H W M T I A U C O Z O N
Z R M H I A E N C R T S O D K
A A E G U M M A A S K E C U Y
B R F X S P U B O T Z C E E I
H C O I T N A S W J S U U J F
C O M A N A Y D G Y Q N M U B
Q V P A T R I A R C H D O U V
Z A V K H O L I X N U U C C L
O U T C U V I L Z N S S Z G F

ANTHIMUS
ARIANS
COMANA
EUDOXIA
PATRIARCH

ANTHUSA
BANISHMENT
CONSTANTINOPLE
JOHN
RELICS

ANTIOCH
CHRYSOSTOM
EMPRESS
MONK
SECUNDUS

Word Scramble

St. John Chrysostom

Unscramble the tiles to reveal important facts about St. John.

1.

G O L E D . H E U T H H N S T . - M O W A S
D E N J O C A L L E D T

2.

A N T R N I O C H . W A S I N H E B O

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3.

D H N T E E M P E D . U D O S E W A I S H
B A N X I A I M R E S

4.

A K E H N A E R F P O W U L W A S R .
S P E J O S T .

5.

P	A	O	N	S	A	R	C	O	P	L	H	O	W	A	S	E	.	T	I	N
F	C	T	A	N	T	R	I	H	E											

6.

H	E	D	I	O	M	A	C	I	T	N	T	D	I	E	N	A	.	F	C	
Y	O	H	E																	

7.

L	T	A	A	T	H	E	F	Y	O	R	E	D	H	E	H	E	E	X	A	
D	E	T	D	A	C	U	R	E	A	S	H	I	S	T	I	O	F	T	O	C
N	O	S	S	.	O	N	T	H	C	R	O	F	T							

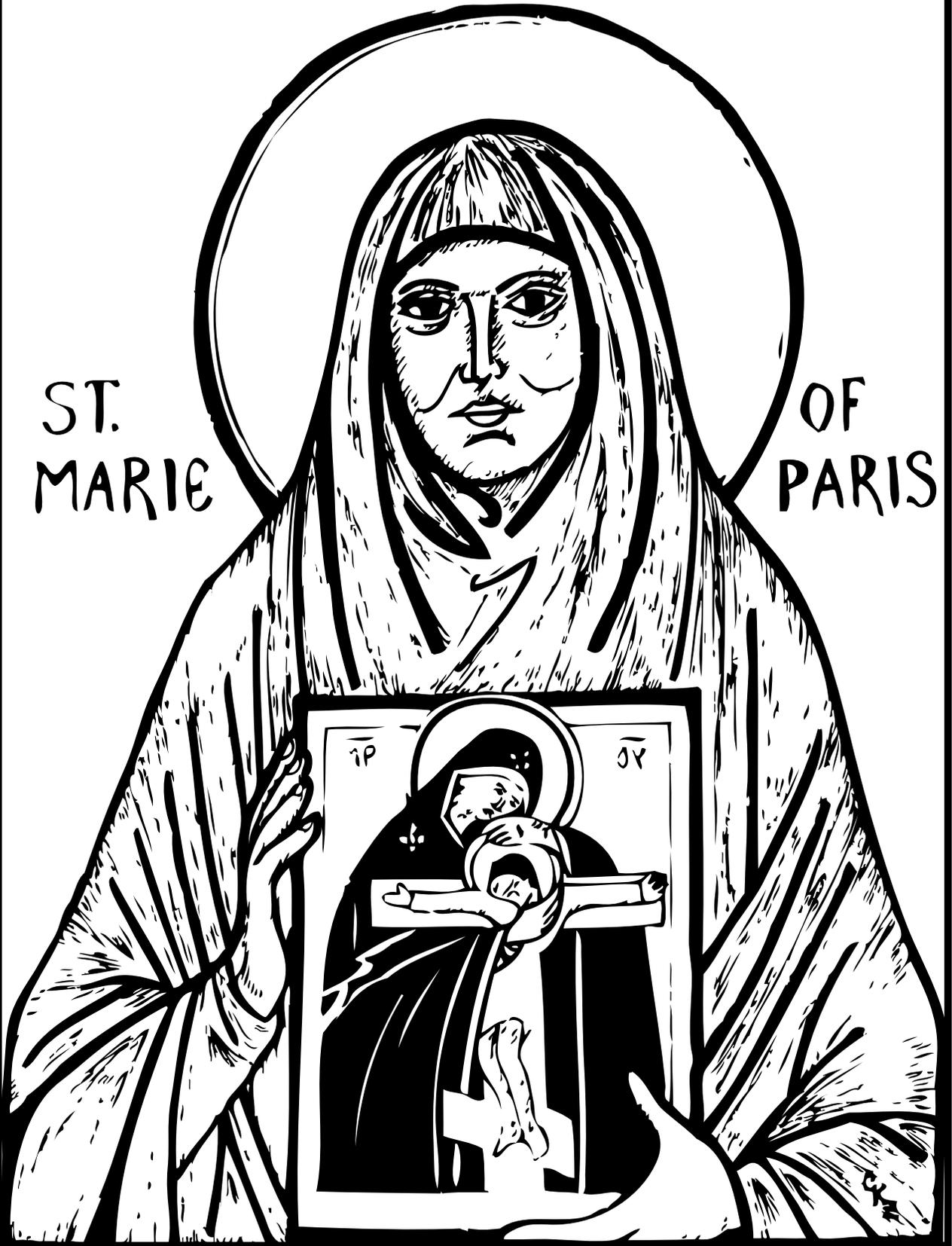
8.

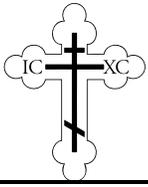
E	R	E	Y	C	O	L	E	R	E	S	T	A	D	E	S	W	H	I	S	
L	I	C	N	B	R	S	.	R	U	S										



ST.
MARIE

OF
PARIS





St. Maria Skobtsova

Venerable Nun-Martyr, St. Mary of Paris, Ravensbruck

Would you be willing to hide young children in trashcans to provide them with a safe place to live? This was one of the many unselfish acts of Mother Maria of Skobtsova. Elizaveta Pilenko was born into a very rich family on December 8, 1891 in Riga, Livonia, present day Latvia. At the age of 15, after the unexpected death of her father, her mother moved the family to St. Petersburg. Elizaveta was so distraught after his death that she became an atheist, and aimlessly wandered the streets of St. Petersburg. A cousin took Elizaveta to her first poetry reading, in an effort to help her deal with feelings of anger and grief. It was during this time that she wrote her first two free verse poems, which resulted in the publication of her first volume of poetry, *Scythian Potsherds*, four years later.

At the age of nineteen, in 1910, she married her first husband, Dmitri Vladimirovich Kuzmin-Karavaev, but in a short time the marriage ended. (Many years later, Dmitri would become a **cardinal** in the Roman Catholic Church.) By 1913, the marriage had collapsed, and Elizaveta's mother moved the family to Anapa, in Southern Russia. In the fall of 1913, her first child, a daughter, Gayana, was born. When Elizaveta was twenty-seven, she became mayor of Anapa. During her mayoral term, she was arrested and tried for being a Bolshevik. During the trial she met Daniel Skobtsova, who presided as judge. After her acquittal, she fell in love, and married Daniel. Due to political turmoil, her family decided to flee the country. The first stop in their journey was the country of Georgia, where their first son, Yuri, was born. The journey continued to Yugoslavia, where a daughter, Anastasia, was born. After five years, their journey culminated in Paris, France.

Three years after they arrived in Paris, Anastasia died of **influenza**. The stress of her daughter's death caused Elizaveta to dedicate her life to the needs of others. With the advice of her bishop, in order to take her monastic vows, she asked Daniel for a divorce. An ecclesiastical divorce was granted, and she professed her monastic vows in 1932 with the guarantee that she would not live in a monastery. She took the name Maria, after St. Mary of Egypt. Being keenly aware of the needs of society, she founded a social service group called Orthodox Action, which met the needs of the "whole" person. She opened a house for the less fortunate and lonely of Paris. This was just the beginning of her many unselfish acts of kindness. The house provided rooms for the homeless, and many times Mother Maria, because of the lack of space, would sleep by the boiler. One of the rooms was used as an Orthodox chapel, in which Mother Maria painted the icon screen. Divine Liturgies were held on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. So many needy people flocked to the house that it soon became too small, and another building was acquired in 1935, serving more than 22,991 meals that year to those less fortunate.

In World War II, when the Nazis took Paris, the house founded by Mother Maria on the rue de Lourmel became a shelter for many Jews. She was assisted in her work by a young priest, Fr. Dimitri Klepinin, as well as her son Yuri and her mother Sophia. They helped Jews escape, and provided them with necessary documents. On one terrible occasion, the Nazis gathered a huge crowd of Jews into a stadium with little food or water. Mother Maria worked with local trash collectors to get a few children into trash cans and out of the stadium to safe places.



Quote

At the Last Judgment I will not be asked whether I satisfactorily practiced asceticism, nor how many bows I have made before the divine altar. I will be asked whether I fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick, and the prisoner in his jail. That is all I will be asked.

- Mother Maria Skobtsova

Date Died

March 31, 1945

Commemoration Date

July 20

Because her selfless acts went against the extermination plans the Nazis had for all Jews, Mother Maria - prisoner 19263 - was arrested, and along with two hundred other women spent the last two years of her life in the Ravensbruck concentration camp. In order to record the deaths at the camp, she would **embroider** the names of those tortured on a special cloth, to be displayed in the church at Lourmel. Many times she would trade the bread she received so she could have the thread she needed for her embroidery. She never complained, and often she would bargain for the other prisoners. She believed the daily Eucharist gave her the strength she needed to help others.

Two months before her death, on January 31, 1945, Mother Maria was transferred to Jugendlager, Youth Camp, a kilometer away from Ravensbruck. It was here that no fewer than 50 people died of "natural" causes on a daily basis. The camp was also equipped with a gas chamber that had a capacity of 150 prisoners. Even in the midst of death, Mother Maria worked on her last embroidery project. It depicted the Mother of God with a crucified child in her arms. Mother Maria felt it would help her to leave the camp alive. On Good Friday, in 1945, Mother Maria was selected for death. (Some say she offered herself in exchange for another prisoner.) On the eve of Easter, Mother Maria died in the gas chamber as a martyr.

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Troparion *(Tone 4)*

You became a bride of Christ, O venerable Mother,
And offered your body and soul to Him as a living sacrifice.
You exposed the evil side of humanity's ways
By allowing the light of the Resurrection to shine forth from you.
We celebrate your memory in love.
O Martyr and Confessor Maria
Pray to Christ our God that He may save our souls.

Kontakion *(Tone 6)*

You became an instrument of divine love, O holy martyr Maria,
And taught us to love Christ with all our being.
You conquered evil by not submitting yourself into the hands of the destroyer of souls.
You drank from the cup of suffering.
The Creator accepted your death above any other sacrifice
And crowned you with the laurels of victory with His mighty hand.
Pray fervently that nothing may hinder us from fulfilling God's will
Because you are a bright star shining in darkness!

Key Terms

Embroider: To decorate fabric or other materials with designs stitched in strands of thread or yarn using a needle. Embroidery may also use other materials such as metal strips, pearls, beads, quills, and sequins.

Cardinal: A senior ecclesiastical official, usually a bishop, of the Catholic Church

Influenza: Commonly known as the flu; an infectious disease





Journal Prompts

St. Maria Skobtsova ✠ Venerable Nun-Martyr, St. Mary of Paris, Ravensbruck

1. What type of talent do you have that can help make a difference in society today?

2. If you were given unlimited funds, what cause would you donate both your money and your time?

3. What difficulties does St. Maria encounter as she tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

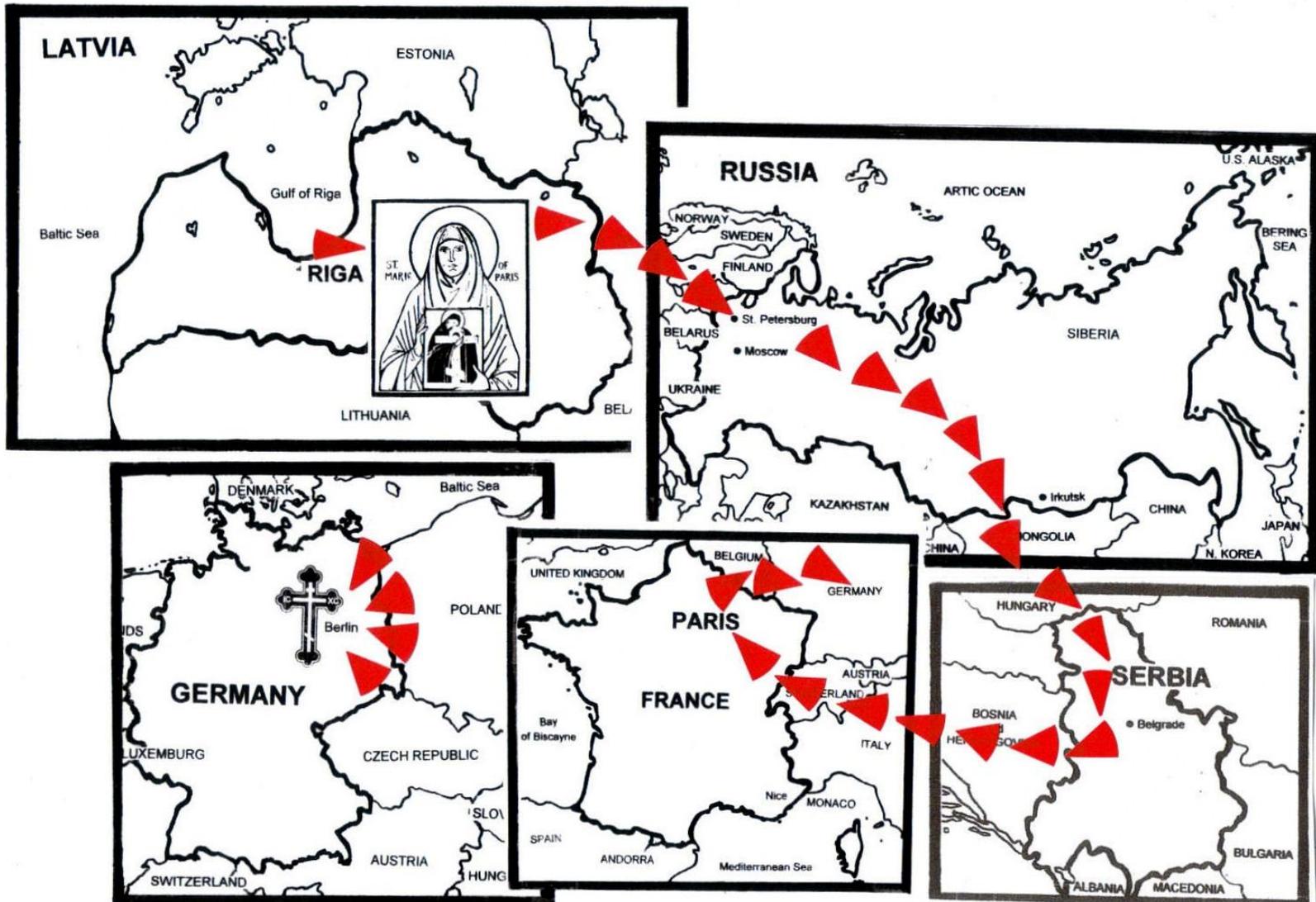
5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Maria living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?

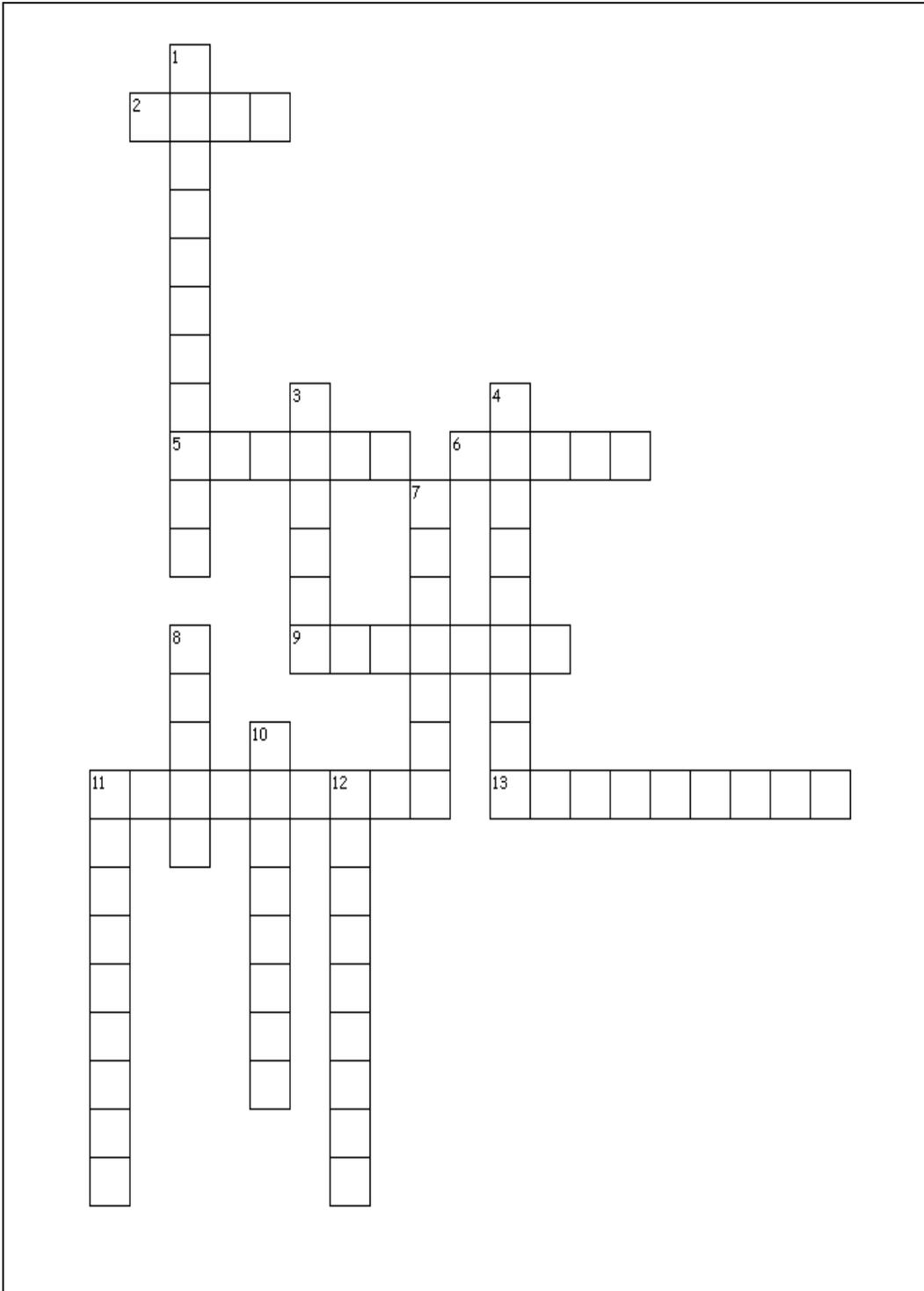


St. Maria Skobtsova's Travels



Cross Word Puzzle

St. Maria Skobtsova



Across

2. Name of her son
5. Name of her first child
6. City where she served as mayor
9. Shelter for the Jews
11. First name of Mother Maria
13. Name of her third child

Down

1. Youth Camp
3. Name of her second husband
4. Caused the death of her second daughter
7. First stop after her family fled St. Petersburg
8. Culmination of the family journey
10. Rank of her first husband in the Roman Catholic Church
11. Gave her strength while she was in prison
12. Manner in which she remembered those tortured.



Cryptogram

St. Maria Skobtsova

Complete the cryptogram to reveal an important event in the life of Mother Maria.

HINTS : R = M and C=X

We have the alphabet and a grid below to help you decipher the cryptogram:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
		X										

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				M								

RTYMJW RFWNF

INJI FX F RFWYDW,

TS YMJ JAJ

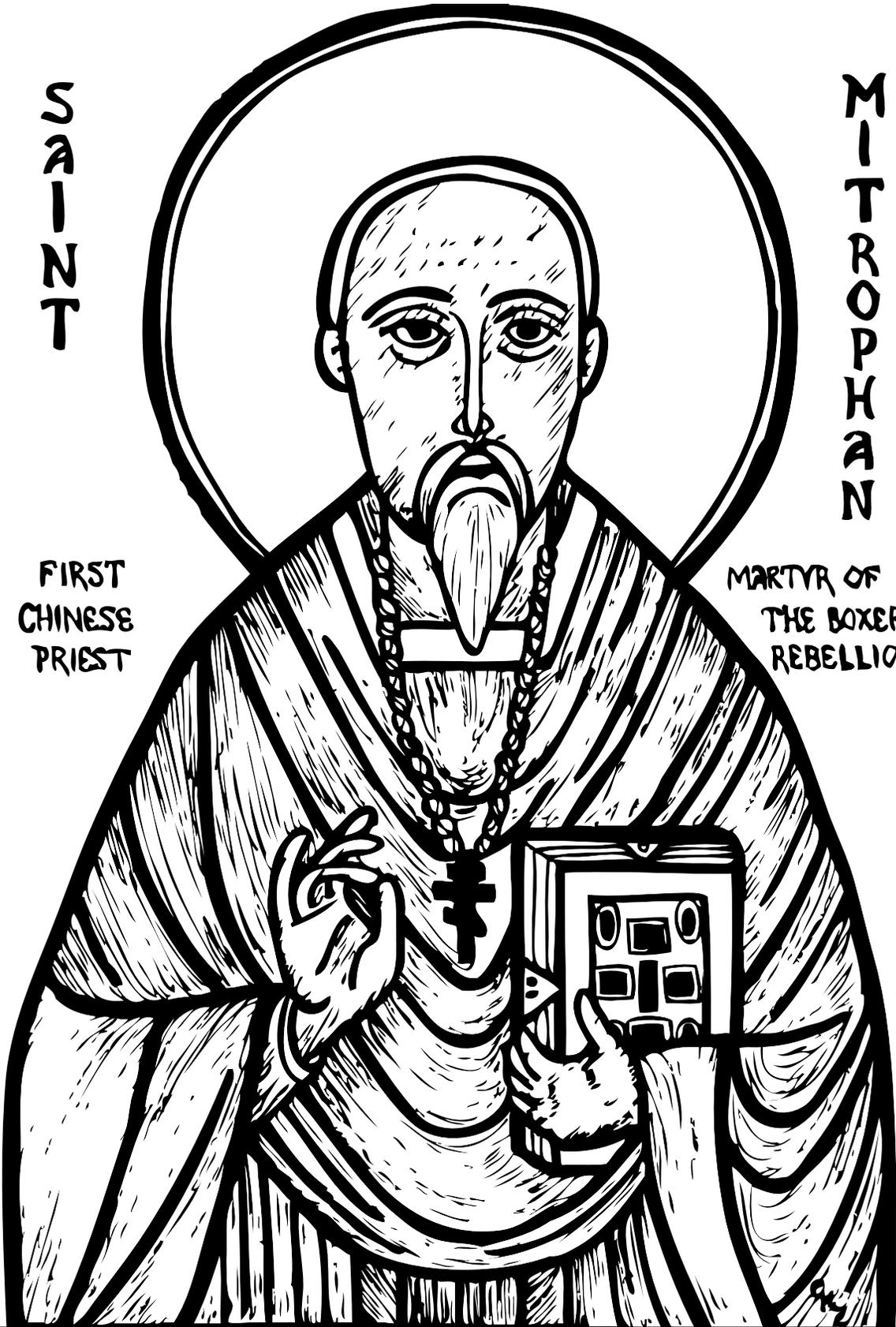
RK JFX YJW.

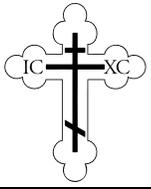
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St. Mitrophan

First Chinese Priest ✦ Martyr of the Boxer Rebellion

At the end of the seventeenth century, Russia had a military outpost, or station, in China. When the Chinese recaptured this outpost, many Russian soldiers remained in China. These soldiers were seen by the native Chinese people as being somewhat like their own highly-respected warrior class, and therefore they were accepted by most Chinese, especially the upper and educated classes. In fact, many of them married women who were members of the Chinese nobility. Some, in Beijing, were hired as personal bodyguards by the Emperor.

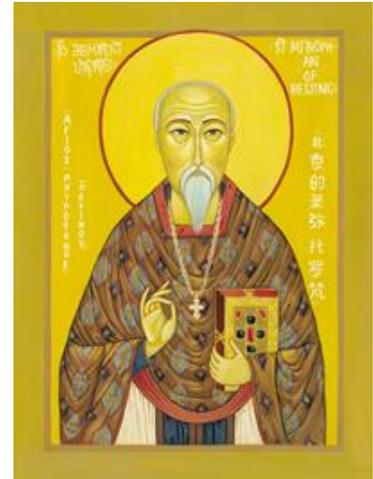
The Russians were able to worship as Orthodox Christians. The Emperor did not object, and he had absolute authority over his people and over everything that went on in the country. So for many years the Orthodox Church safely grew in China, attracting some native people to the faith. Though Chinese Orthodox Christians were always small in number, they were dedicated to the Church.

As years went by, the attitude of tolerance toward foreigners in China began to change. While many Chinese were open to Western ideas, others feared that any outside influence was a threat to China's ancient traditions. One very important person who shared that fear was the **Dowager** Empress, the mother of the Emperor. She and other influential people began a growing movement which became known in the West as the **Boxer Rebellion**. The Empress ordered that village **militia** begin arming themselves and training for guerilla warfare, and others joined them. Their rallying cry was, "Let us protect our country and eliminate the foreigners!" The native Chinese Orthodox, as well as other Christians, soon became targets of the Boxers.

One of the best-known of those native Orthodox is the priest Mitrophan (Chinese name Tsi-chung), who was born in 1855. He lost his father early in life, and was raised in a mission school by his Christian mother and grandmother. He was a serene young man, never seeking attention and willing to get along with everyone. He had no great wish to become a priest, even though his teachers and the local clergy encouraged him. He would say, "How can a person with so few abilities and virtues take on such a great rank?" But he was finally persuaded, and was ordained by Bishop Nikolai of Japan in the year 1880. Even as he received ordination, Fr. Mitrophan knew that he would face hostility and persecution. Having taken on the faith of the Christian foreigners to the extent of becoming a priest, he knew he would be seen as an enemy by those who hated all outside influences in their country.

Fr. Mitrophan spent the next fifteen years translating and proofreading service books, building churches, and tending to the needs of his small flock. But by 1900 the situation of Christians had become very dangerous. Roving bands of Boxers were killing and torturing Christians and all foreigners, driving them out of their homes. Some abandoned their faith under this persecution, but many remained steadfast. On June 14 of 1900, the Boxers burned down the main Orthodox church, the mission school and other buildings. Frightened, a number of believers gathered at Fr. Mitrophan's home. He encouraged them all to be strong in the face of the suffering which was sure to come.

When soldiers and Boxers surrounded the house on the evening of June 23, some of the stronger Christians escaped, but Fr. Mitrophan stayed with those who remained.



Quote

Rejoice, O hallowed martyr of Christ who fell beneath the date tree. Rejoice, O martyr hung faithfully on the Tree of Life. Rejoice, O Mitrophan, arise and eat the Bread of Life.

- *The Akathist to the Chinese Martyr Saints of the Boxer Rebellion*

Date Died

June 23, 1900

Place Buried

Under the altar of All Holy Martyrs Church on the site of martyrdom in Beijing, China

Commemoration Date

June 11

Key Terms

He was stabbed in the chest countless times, and fell dead beneath a date tree in his own yard, in full view of his wife and children. The Christians with him were slaughtered, except for a few who were injured and mutilated but not killed. Many of these died of their wounds later.

Maria, the fiancée of Fr. Mitrophan's son Isaac, showed great courage in helping others to escape, actually assisting them in climbing over the walls around the family's yard. When she was urged to escape herself, or to hide, she firmly insisted that she would stay with the family of her betrothed. She told everyone, "I was born near the church of the Most Holy Theotokos and here I shall die." Before her death she even confronted the Boxers, accusing them of murdering people illegally, without trial.

Neighbors dragged Fr. Mitrophan's body to a hidden place. In 1903, a memorial church was built in Beijing, on the site of the martyrdoms of the Chinese Orthodox. Fr. Mitrophan's relics and the bones of other martyrs were buried under the altar. The one remaining member of Fr. Mitrophan's family, his son Sergei, became an archpriest and a faithful servant of the Church.

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- Meyendorff, John, *The Orthodox Church*, Pantheon Books, 1962.
- *Again Magazine*, Volume 2, #3.
- *Orthodox Life*, Volume 29, #1, Jan-Feb 1979.
- "St. Mitrophan and the Martyrs of the Boxer Rebellion," *OCA- Feasts and Saints: Life of a Saint*, Orthodox Church in America. <http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsLife.asp?FSID=205368>

Troparion *(Tone 6)*

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord, did not see earthly glory as a treasure to be held,
But facing the torments of men and the wisdom of demons,
Humbled themselves for Thy sake, even unto death.
Wherefore, O Righteous Father, as through them
Thou brought the priceless pearl to an unbaptized land,
Grant us Thy Spirit and great mercy for our souls.

Kontakion *(Tone 4)*

The divine Mitrophan, the martyred shepherd,
with his great and faithful flock,
Have hallowed China with their blood,
Wherefore we praise them with sacred hymns,
For they were faithful to Christ even unto death.

Dowager: A widow with a title or property coming from her dead husband. In China, where the elderly were respected as being wise and experienced, the Dowager Empress received special respect because she was old and also had been married to the Emperor.

Boxer Rebellion: This name came from a mistranslation of the Chinese name for the rebels, which was "righteous uniting band (group)." It was mistakenly translated as "righteous uniting fist", like the fist of a boxer.

Militia: An army made up of citizens rather than professional soldiers. Militias usually are called to action in times of crisis or emergency.

Special Thanks

✙ Icons of St. Mitrophan,
by the hands of Seraphim Lim and
Nana Quparadze



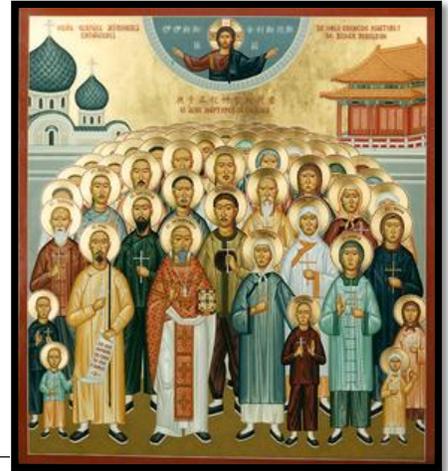


Journal Prompts

St. Mitrophan ✦ First Chinese Priest ✦ Martyr of the Boxer Rebellion

1. The words from the Akathist Service refer to the date tree under which St. Mitrophan died, and then to the Tree of Life. How does this help us understand martyrdom? Why do you think the Cross of Jesus Christ is often referred to as the Tree of Life?

2. We know that St. Mitrophan sometimes felt like a stranger in his own home culture because he was an Orthodox Christian. Are there ways in which we sometimes feel like strangers in our culture because of our faith?



3. What specific difficulties did St. Mitrophan encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Aidan living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?

St. Mitrophan's Travels



Fill in the Blanks

St. Mitrophan

*Choose the right word from the Word Bank
to fill in the blank in each sentence.*

1. The Orthodox Church in China began because the Russians had a military _____ there.
2. Saint Mitrophan was ordained a priest by Bishop _____ of _____.
3. Father Mitrophan spent much of his time _____ service books for the Chinese Orthodox.
4. The Boxer Rebellion started because some Chinese, including the Dowager _____, feared foreigners.
5. Father Mitrophan and many Orthodox Christians with him were killed in his own _____.
6. Father Mitrophan's surviving son became a _____.

WORD BANK:

Japan, basement, court, Formosa, yard, Nicholas, Priest, Emperor,
copying, Empress, outpost, John, translating, Sergius, Bishop

True or False Arithmetic

St. Mitrophan

To do this activity, read the story about St. Mitrophan. Then, without looking back at the story, decide whether each of the following statements is true or false, and do the arithmetic.

For example, if you decide that Statement A is true, you will add 5 to your Starting Number, which is 20. If you decide it is false, you will subtract 3 from the Starting Number.

Can you come up with the final number given at the end? Here goes:

- A. The Chinese Orthodox Church began with a Greek military outpost in China.
If true, add 5. If false, subtract 3. A. _____
- B. Some soldiers from the outpost in China became the Chinese Emperor's bodyguards.
If true, add 4. If false, add 1. B. _____
- C. The Orthodox Faith was admired by China's Dowager Empress.
If true, add 8. If false, add 6. C. _____
- D. The "Boxers" wanted to get rid of ancient Chinese traditions.
If true, add 4. If false, multiply by 2. D. _____
- E. St. Mitrophan wanted to be a priest from the time he was very young.
If true, subtract 4. If false, subtract 7. E. _____
- F. St. Mitrophan was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Nikolai of Japan.
If true, add 2. If false, subtract 5. F. _____
- G. St. Mitrophan translated Orthodox worship services into Chinese.
If true, multiply by 3. If false, multiply by 4. G. _____
- H. The fiancée of St. Mitrophan's son escaped death by climbing over a wall.
If true, add 6. If false, add 3. H. _____
- I. Saint Mitrophan's surviving son became an Orthodox priest.
If true, add 7. If false, add 9. I. _____

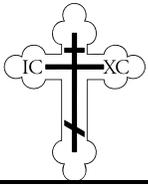
The correct final answer is: _____

Did you get it right?

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St. Olympias

Holy Woman (Olympiada) the Deaconess of Constantinople

Suppose you were born with an inherited fortune of 900 million dollars. What would you do with the money? What would you do with your life?

The saint we know as the Deaconess Olympias, born about 365, came from a family that had amassed huge amounts of cash as well as estates and villas in and around Constantinople. But even as a child, she was encouraged to be concerned for the poor. Her parents, and those who raised her after her parents died, gave her a solid basis in the Christian faith, and a deep sense of duty toward others.

So Olympias was always extremely generous. But her generosity did not save her from having to face a time of great trouble in the Church. Her closest friend, the Patriarch John Chrysostom, was driven into exile by powerful enemies. Leadership of the Church was taken over by men who were not worthy to lead. These men saw Olympias as an enemy because she had been friends with Chrysostom. She had to live under suspicion, but never give up her loyalty to her friend, and never give up her faith in God.

Olympias had always been a strong person. She married young, and when her husband unexpectedly died she felt free to serve God without the obligations of marriage and family. So when the Emperor tried to marry her off to one of his relatives (seeking control of her vast fortune) she courageously resisted, and never married again. Instead she began distributing her wealth to churches, monasteries, exiles, prisoners and the homeless. She also gave her time and energy to help those in need, and while she was still in her thirties the Bishop of Constantinople, seeing her dedication, ordained her a deaconess, even though women usually had to be much older to be given that office. Here is one of the prayers for the ordination of a deaconess:

O Eternal God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of man and woman, who did replenish with the Spirit Miriam and Deborah and Anna and Huldah; who did not disdain that your only-begotten Son should be born of woman...look down now upon this your servant who is ordained for the diaconate, and grant her your Holy Spirit; cleanse her from all that can defile flesh or spirit so that she may worthily accomplish the work which is committed to her to your glory...

Olympias opened a monastery on one of her Constantinople properties, and was joined by fifty of her former slaves, whom she had freed. In time the number of nuns grew to 500. The monastery compound contained a hospital, an orphanage, and a center for distributing aid, so along with their rigorous prayer and fasting the nuns served the community around them, led by their **abbess**, the deaconess Olympias. And in 397, when John Chrysostom became the new Bishop of Constantinople, her efforts increased. She and the bishop became close friends who could confide in one another. They prayed together and helped each other in ministry. Both lived extremely humbly - even Olympias' former servants would not eat the poor - quality food she herself lived on. They got used to seeing their former mistress dressed in rags.

John Chrysostom was a hugely popular and compassionate bishop. His preaching was so inspirational that he was called "golden-mouthed." But he angered many powerful rich people, who resented his calls for them to live simply and to care more for the



Quote

The patience and dignity with which you have borne your sorrows... and the charity which has made you throw a veil over the malice of your persecutors have won a glory and reward which hereafter will make all your sufferings seem light and passing in the presence of eternal joy.

- St. John Chrysostom's words to Olympias in a letter during his exile

Date Died

July 25, 408 in Nicomedia

Commemoration Date

July 25

Key Terms

poor. He could be impatient with those who were lazy in keeping the faith. His criticisms so infuriated the luxury-loving Empress that finally, with the encouragement of some jealous clergy, she sent him into **exile** in the year 404.

A terrible crisis in the Church followed. After John's departure, part of the great cathedral of **Hagia Sophia** was severely damaged by fire. John's enemies accused his followers, including Olympias, of arson. She was arrested, but answered her accusers with spirit. She told them that having spent a great deal of money to build churches, she was not likely to burn them down.

Olympias tried hard to get her friend restored to his position, but she failed. The Church suffered without his leadership. John himself suffered, pushed along primitive roads by harsh guards leading him to his exile in a far corner of the Empire. His body, already frail from years of intense fasting, gave out. St. John Chrysostom died in September of 407. His last words, we read in many places, were "Glory to God for all things."

The deaconess suffered, too, from the loss of her friend, and from seeing the Church fall under the leadership of men she felt were unworthy. She became despondent, especially after she was exiled for a time. She took comfort and courage from St. John's letters, and from his confidence in her, but the ordeal wore her out. Olympias died in 408.

St. Olympias the deaconess is an example of one who serves, prays, and brings others to Christ. She shows us how a huge inheritance can be a means of doing good, rather than self-indulgence. She strengthened the great Saint John Chrysostom with her support and effort, and she stood firm in a time of great trouble in the Church. She did, in the words of the ordination prayer, "worthily accomplish the work which is committed to her to your glory".

References

- *"Deaconess Olympias: A Sister in the Faith" in Encountering Women of Faith* (Saint Catherine's Vision Collection Volume I), ed. Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald, InterOrthodox Press, Berkeley, 2005
- *"Holy Woman (Olympiada) the Deaconess of Constantinople," OCA- Feasts and Saints: Life of a Saint, Orthodox Church in America.*
<http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsLife.asp?FSID=102087>

Troparion *(Tone 8)*

In thee, O Mother, is found true salvation through thine example;
For thou hast taken up the cross and followed Christ,
and actively taught to despise the flesh, since it passeth away;
Instead concern ourselves with the soul, and things of immortality.
Wherefore, O Venerable Olympiada, thy spirit rejoiceth with the angels.

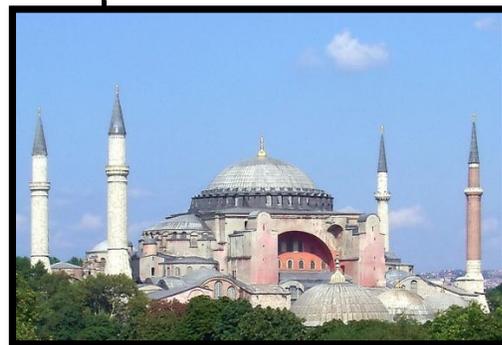
Kontakion *(Tone 2)*

For the love of the Lord, O Venerable Mother,
Thou didst learn to despise the desire for rest,
Enlightening thy spirit with fasting,
For mightily thou hast vanquished beasts.
But by thy prayers destroy also the boldness of our adversaries.

Abbess: The head of a female monastery

Exile: Being forced to leave your home or country

Hagia Sophia: The great Constantinople cathedral whose name means "Holy Wisdom"





Journal Prompts

St. Olympias ✠ Holy Woman (*Olympiada*) the Deaconess of Constantinople

1. Look at the two questions asked at the beginning of this biography of St. Olympias. How would you answer them for yourself and your own life?

2. St. John Chrysostom wrote to St. Olympias and praised her charity (meaning kindness) which made her "throw a veil over the malice of your persecutors." What do you think this means? Why would a person do this? How would a person do this?

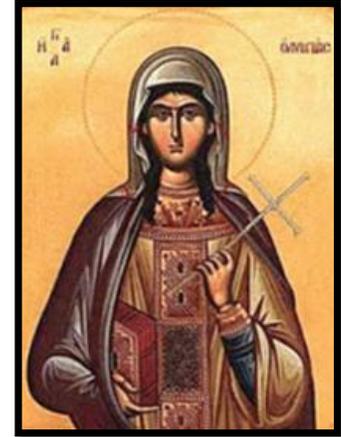
3. What difficulties does St. Olympias encounter as she tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

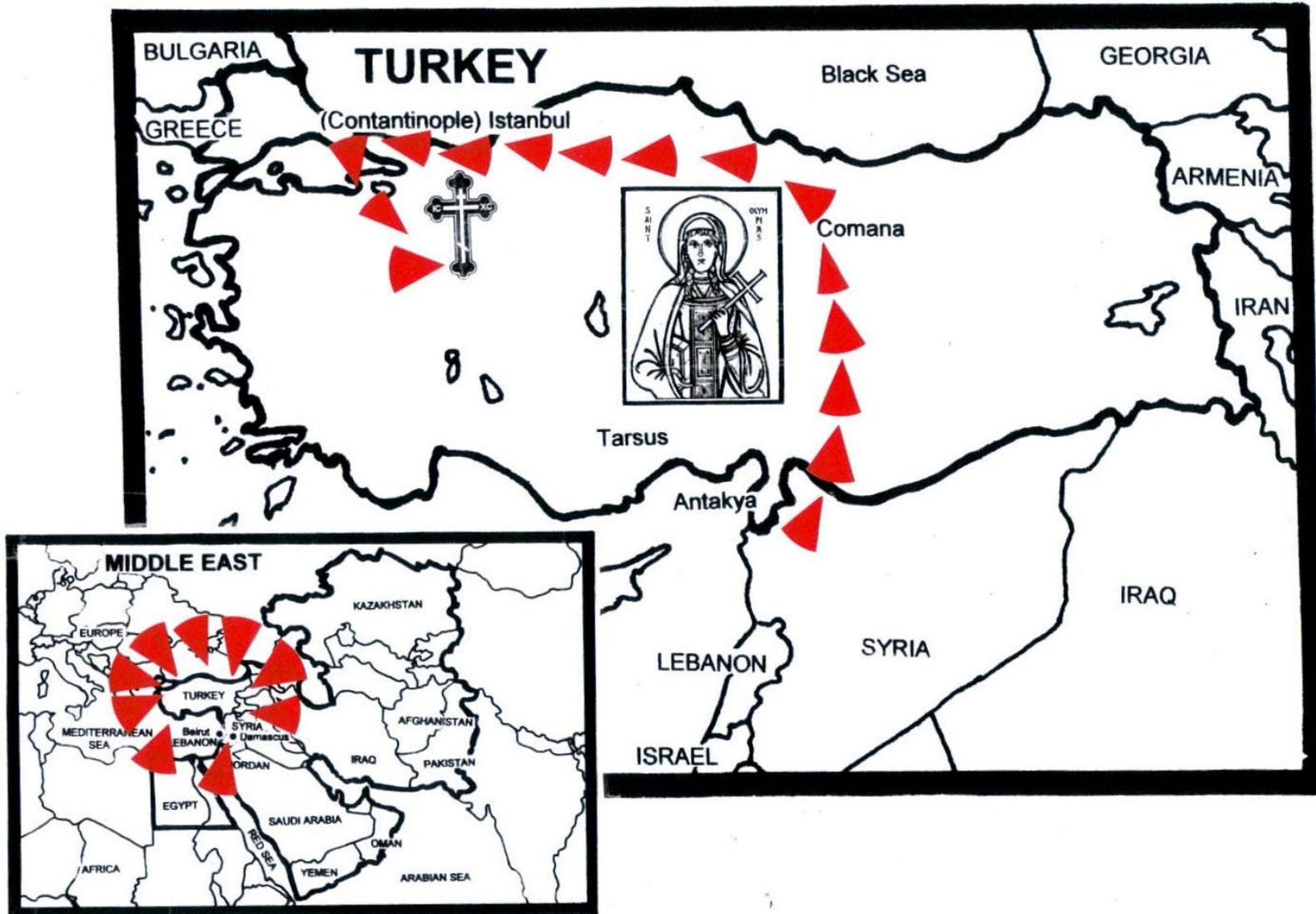
5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Olympias living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



St. Olympias' Travels



Cross Them Out

St. Olympias

*Follow the numbered instructions and cross out words from the group of words below.
When you finish, read the lower part of the page to find out what to do next.*

1. Cross out things that have tails: _____
2. Cross out a word that means a person who is followed by others: _____
3. Cross out any words that rhyme with ABLE: _____
4. Cross out a word that means what you should do with money: _____
5. Cross out 2 words that rhyme. One means to look angry or upset.
The other means a king's "hat": _____
6. Cross out 2 things you can do with potatoes: _____
7. Cross out a word that means to push hard: _____
8. Cross out something you dig: _____
9. Cross out LAKE and any words that rhyme with LAKE: _____
10. Cross out a word that goes with NORTH, EAST and WEST: _____
11. Cross out the name of an organ in your body that rhymes with "queen": _____

HOLE	FROWN	GABLE	EVERY	SHOVE	LAKE	SAVE
FROM	GIVE	WHO	MOUSE	SPLEEN	BEGS	FAKE
LEADER	TO	CROWN	FRY	TAKE	MASH	SOUTH
STABLE	LABEL	ONE	RAKE	YOU	ELEPHANT	

Once you have finished crossing out, put the remaining words in order to mean something that Our Lord Jesus Christ told us to do, and which Saint Olympias definitely did. Write your answer here:

Did you get it? Check your answer in Luke 6:30.

Unscramble Puzzle

St. Olympias

In the prayer for the ordination of a deaconess, the names of four other women are mentioned. Here are three things for you to do:

1. Unscramble the names.
2. Look up the places where each woman is mentioned in the Bible, and write the correct Bible verse in the column next to each woman's name.
3. Unscramble the words from the Bible-each one is found in one of the verses, and has something to do with one woman. Put the correct word in the third column by the woman's name.

Name:	Bible Verse:	Word:
IRAMMI _____	_____	_____
DHALHU _____	_____	_____
NANA _____	_____	_____
HARBDOE _____	_____	_____

BIBLE VERSES (choose one for each woman):

2 Kings 22:12-14, Judges 4:1-8, Luke 2: 36-37, Exodus 15: 20-21

(Note: Revised Standard Version)

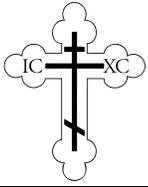
BIBLE WORDS (choose one for each woman):

okob, gans, pemlte, ethorspesp

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St. Poplia

Confessor of the Faith ✦ Deaconess of Antioch

Any Christian living in the Roman Empire during the years 361-63 was experiencing a time of crisis in the Church. This is because the Emperor during those few years was a young man who had been raised as a Christian, but who became known as Julian the **Apostate**. He was an enemy of the Church, and used his great power to make things very difficult for Christian believers, priests, and bishops. Though we cannot be sure of the exact year of Saint Poplia's birth, we do know that she lived during this critical time.

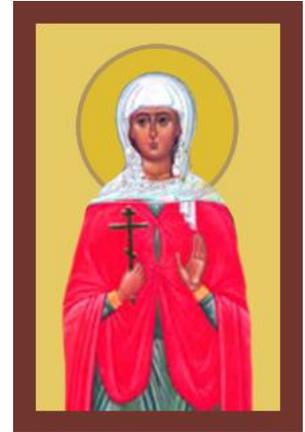
Poplia came of a good family, and had a happy, though not very long, marriage. When her husband died, she was left to raise their son John. Her situation, most probably, was like that of Eunice, the mother of the young Timothy, who was chosen by the apostle Paul to work with him in ministry. Like Eunice, Poplia had no husband and father to help her as a mother. Yet, again like Eunice, Poplia must have done a very good job of teaching John the faith, for her son became a priest. He was so well - regarded by the leaders of the Church that they urged him to become a bishop. But like other humble men we know of in the Church's history, he resisted the suggestions that he take a higher rank, and remained in his position of priest for his whole life.

In addition to raising a son, Poplia reached out to other widows after she herself became a widow. She gathered these women in her home for prayer and study of the Scripture. They also offered each other comfort and support. It was not too long before the gathered group became a monastic community, with Poplia as its abbess. She became so well known for her faithfulness to Christ and her service to others that she was ordained a deaconess.

There would come a decisive moment of confrontation between Saint Poplia and the apostate Emperor. So it is important to ask: How did this man, raised as a Christian, become such a dangerous opponent of the faith? Julian's childhood offers some answers. Though his family was Christian in name, many of its members did not behave in loving or honest ways. They struggled with each other for power, and Julian had to watch these struggles, sometimes violent and bloody, as a young boy with no power to do anything about them. His mother died when he was a few years old, so she could not protect, explain, or give comfort. Julian always felt special anger and hatred toward a cousin whom he suspected of murdering other members of the family. This cousin made a good outward show of being a Christian, and Julian seems to have told himself that if this was what followers of Jesus Christ did, he wanted no part of being one of those followers.

Julian decided that instead of worshipping Christ he would be a worshipper of the pagan gods of Rome. He devised a code of morals that he encouraged all his subjects to live by. He didn't seem to realize that "his" code was really very much like the teachings of Christianity. He may have thought he was abandoning Christianity, but its beauty and truth were still somewhere in his heart, and found their way into the moral laws he arrogantly thought he himself was creating.

During the few short years of his reign, Emperor Julian persecuted and damaged the lives and careers of many Christians. He was an unstable person, and nobody ever knew how he might behave, or might react to things that happened. People tended to be afraid of him, but in the year 362 he came to Antioch and met one woman who was not afraid at all: the deaconess and abbess Poplia. Julian had come with members of his court to Antioch, where he



Quote

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in... your mother Eunice, and now, I am sure, dwells in you.

- St. Paul writing to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:5

Commemoration Date

October 9

encouraged all the citizens to pay tribute to the pagan gods. As he passed the house where Poplia and her monastic sisters worshipped together, he heard their **antiphonal** singing of the words of Psalm 115: "Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands." Always quick to take offense, Julian decided this was a personal insult to his worship of the pagan gods. He told Poplia not to do any more singing, and went on his way. But when he was ready to leave the city he passed the house again, and heard the next verses of the psalm: "They have mouths, but do not speak. They have eyes, but do not see; ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell; feet, but do not walk, and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them."

This time Julian had Poplia dragged into the street and beaten. He told her that when he returned from his military campaign in Persia she would be executed. But Julian never returned from that campaign. He was killed in Persia, perhaps by an enemy soldier or, some believe, by one of his own men who saw him as a danger to the people of the Roman Empire. Poplia lived out the rest of her life, just a few years, in peace. She witnessed to her faith even when it was risky to do so. The Church gives her the title of **confessor**.

References

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<http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsLife.asp?FSID=102913>
- *"Dictionary of Saintly Women"*, Agnes Baillie Cunningham Dunbar, George Bell & Sons, London, 1905

Troparion *(Tone 8)*

O instructor of Orthodoxy,
O teacher of piety and purity, O light to the universe,
O divine inspiration for Hierarchs, O most wise Poplia,
By thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O spiritual light,
Pray Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion *(Tone 2)*

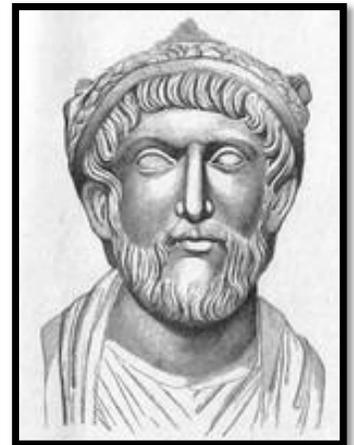
By taking pleasures in abstinence, O divinely wise Mother,
Thou didst put to sleep fleshly desires,
Thou wast shown to be mature in faith,
And thou didst flower as the tree of life in paradise,
O sacred Mother Poplia.

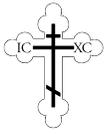
Key Terms

Apostate: A person who abandons something he or she once believed in, often religious faith.

Antiphonal: A style of chanting or singing in responsive, alternating parts. The Psalms are often sung or chanted antiphonally in our churches.

Confessor: A person who proclaims his or her faith, often despite persecution. (A martyr is one who gives his or her life for the faith.)





Journal Prompts

St. Poplia ✠ Confessor of the Faith ✠ Deaconess of Antioch

1. Do you think the quotation from St. Paul about Eunice and her son Timothy could also apply to Poplia and her son John? In what ways might these two mothers have influenced their sons?

2. Think about the Emperor Julian's earliest examples of what Christians are like. How can the example of older people help or harm children in forming an idea of Christians? Do you think their examples can affect children's ideas of what Christ Himself is like?



3. What specific difficulties did St. Poplia encounter as she tried to follow Christ?

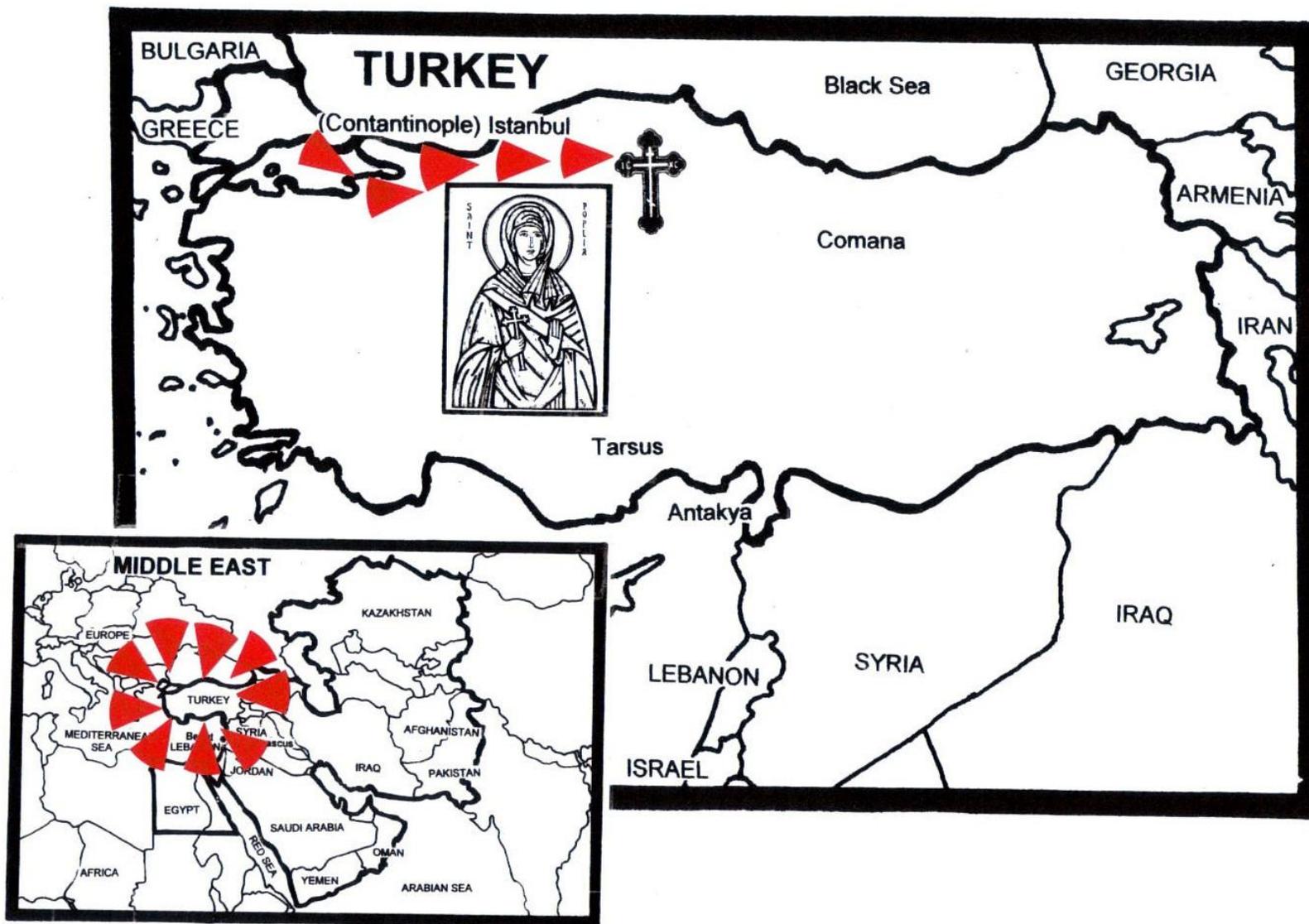
4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Poplia living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?

St. Poplia's Travels



Word Scramble

St. Poplia

Unscramble the words in the group below and draw a line to match them to the correct spelling.

Scrambled Words

LUAP
SSALMP
TMHYOTI
NOCTIHA
HOJN
SLOID
CEENIU
ASOPETTA
MARN
NILUJA
SIPARE

Correct Spelling

TIMOTHY
EUNICE
IDOLS
ROMAN
PERSIA
PAUL
ANTIOCH
JULIAN
JOHN
PSALMS
APOSTATE

Now put the words where they belong to complete these sentences:

1. St. Poplia was a citizen of the _____ Empire.
2. The Emperor at that time was named _____.
3. Because he had turned his back on Christianity, the Emperor was known in history as "the _____."
4. Poplia's son was named _____.
5. Her home was the city of _____.
6. Poplia and the group of nuns she led often sang _____ together.
7. The Emperor was angry because the verses the nuns were singing seemed to criticize his worship of _____.
8. The Emperor told Poplia she would be executed when he returned from a military campaign in _____.
9. The apostle _____ writes about another faithful Christian woman, who also had a son.
10. Her name was _____.
11. Her son's name was _____.

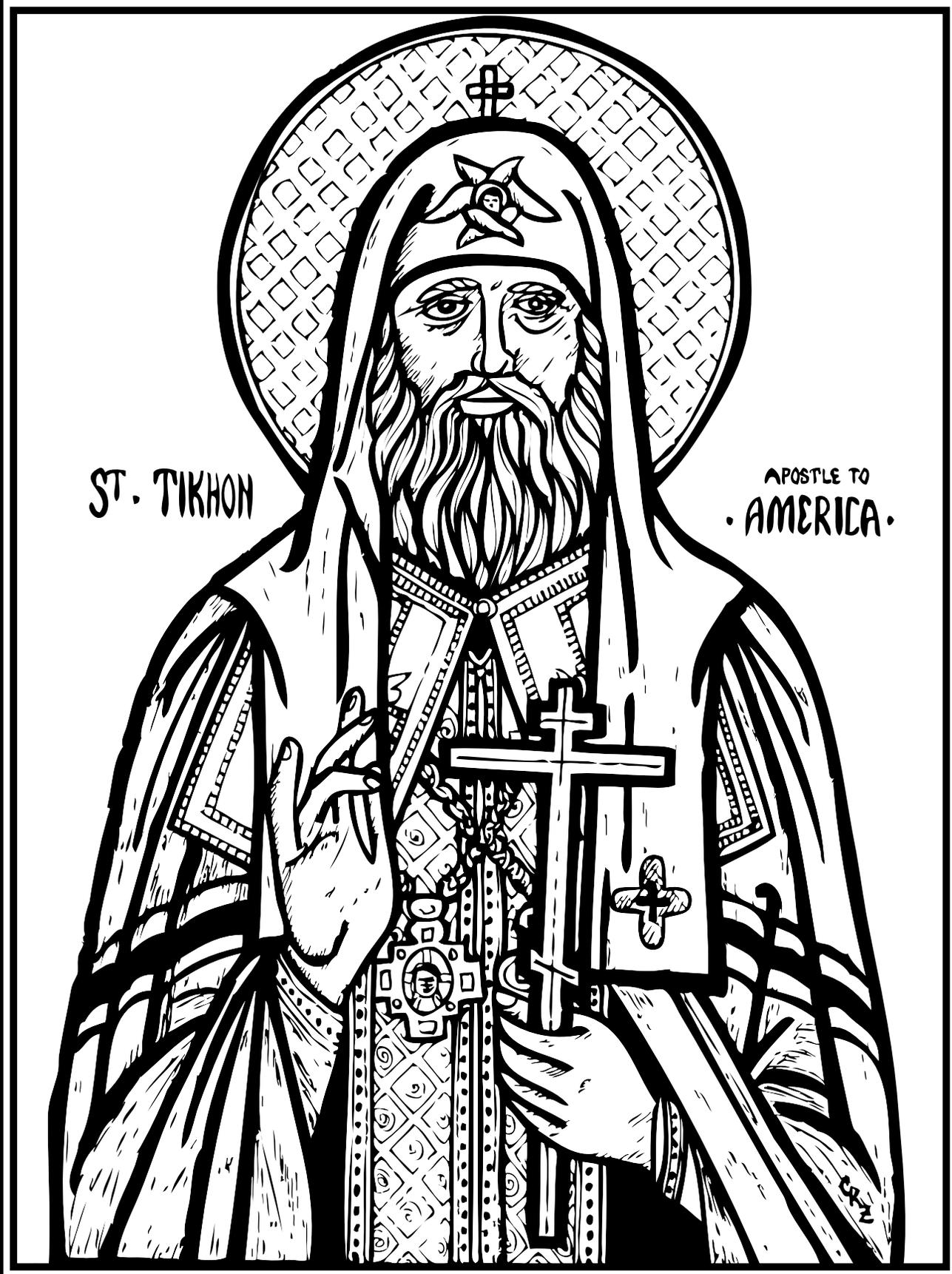
Word Search

St. Poplia

After reading the story of St. Poplia find the following four words in the Word Search
Puzzle : **ABBESS, CONFESSOR, DEACONESS, MOTHER.**

There is a fifth word which you will find in the story of St. Poplia's life. Here's a hint:
the word has 5 letters, and begins and ends with the same letter.

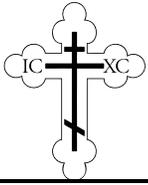
P	Y	S	E	X	X	R	G	H
F	Z	S	W	R	E	O	J	M
N	I	E	I	E	L	S	T	A
P	Q	N	D	H	I	S	N	P
R	U	O	O	T	S	E	Y	C
P	C	C	W	O	B	F	K	U
O	A	A	N	M	J	N	E	T
S	S	E	B	B	A	O	O	E
C	P	D	E	O	D	C	Y	L



ST. TIKHON

APOSTLE TO
• AMERICA •

S.M.



St. Tikhon

Patriarch of Moscow and Apostle to America

Born into a priestly family in 1865, Basil Bellavin was a theological student from the time he was thirteen; first at the Pskov Monastery near his birthplace, and later at the Saint Petersburg Theological Academy. In 1892 he became a monk and was given the name Tikhon after the great saint Tikhon of Zadonsk. For the next few years he served as an instructor and administrator at three different seminaries.

At the age of only 32, he was consecrated a bishop, and the next year he was appointed to the Diocese of the **Aleutians** and Alaska. Bishop Tikhon arrived in New York on December 23, 1898. He was now the only Orthodox bishop on the continent of North America, and he would be called on to minister to Greeks, Eskimos, Arabs, and people of many other backgrounds - including, of course, Russians - who spoke a variety of languages and had many kinds of customs.

The young bishop's achievements and service during the following years were remarkable. He established a monastery to train priests, missionaries and teachers. He traveled, often in primitive conditions, throughout the United States and to Canada, Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands. He oversaw the construction of churches, convened the first All-American Council (1907), and began a monastic foundation at South Canaan, Pennsylvania. He encouraged everyone to work toward making the Orthodox Church in America independent and able to sustain itself.

His accomplishments are all the more impressive when we consider Bishop Tikhon's background. Living in Russia, he had had very little if any contact with people other than Russians. He had not traveled very far. Yet in America he ably served and gained the trust of the diverse Orthodox flock, and found his way across vast distances in an unfamiliar land to be with them.

The Church of Russia honored Bishop Tikhon with the title of archbishop, and in 1907 he was called back to Russia. His farewell address shows how difficult it had been for him to leave his homeland nine years earlier:

I recall how deep was my dismay at the news of my appointment to America. It was not that I was saddened so much at parting with my [Russian] flock...I was not so grieved at the thought of going to a far country, of leaving my old and sick mother; rather I was oppressed by the consciousness that I was not suitable for the work I was being sent here to do...and now I am inclined to think that my appointment came about not so much by the decision of men as by the plan of God...

Back in Russia, he was to face a truly hellish situation. After ten years of service as an archbishop, he was chosen by lot in November of 1917 to be the new **Patriarch** of Moscow and All Russia. It was a time of great turmoil and suffering as the country was caught in civil war. Nicholas II, the Tsar or Emperor of Russia and all its lands, had given up his throne. The new **Bolshevik** government had taken power, and one of its intentions was to destroy the Church completely. Churches and monasteries were closed and demolished. Hundreds of clergy were killed, and those who remained were humiliated, ridiculed, and forbidden to teach or preach. Many believers and prominent people were imprisoned or sent to harsh labor camps. The whole country lived under the constant threat of terror. Patriarch Tikhon had to be very careful. He wanted to protect the Church and the people from persecution, so he spoke out against



Quote

It is our obligation to share our spiritual treasures, our truth, our light and our joy with those who do not have these gifts. And this duty lies not only on pastors and missionaries, but also on lay people, for the Church of Christ, in the wise comparison of Saint Paul, is a body, and in the life of the body every member takes part.

- Saint Tikhon

Date Died

April 7, 1925

Place Buried

Donskoy Monastery

Commemoration Date

April 7

government abuse and manipulation. At the same time, he did not want to provoke even more repression. So he encouraged believers to comply, as peacefully as they could, with those regulations of the new State that did not require compromising the faith. But he also spoke out publicly and with great courage against some of the most hostile acts of the Bolsheviks. He protested the assassination of the Tsar and his family, and publicly objected to the government's taking sacred vessels from the churches. He protested against destruction of churches, and violence against believers.

Because he was outspoken, the Patriarch was a very visible public target for the Church's enemies, and had to endure threats, lies and personal slander. But he did not give up trying to intercede for others who were persecuted and exiled. Imprisoned for a year in 1922-23, he continued to encourage believers in a time of fearful darkness in Russia. He also tried to maintain the Church's political neutrality, though some criticized him for compromising more than they felt he should have. Despite criticisms, people continued to trust him and to take strength from his example of staunchly defending the Church.

Patriarch Tikhon died in Moscow on April 7, 1925, at the age of sixty. The circumstances of his death were mysterious, and some believe that he may have sacrificed his life for the faith. One thing we can certainly say is that he lived up to the words of Saint Paul, whom he liked to quote. Saint Paul urges all of us to do what Saint Tikhon clearly did: "Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Romans 12: 11-12.)

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- Constance J. Tarasar, ed., *"Orthodox America 1794-1976"*, Syosset, New York, Orthodox Church in America, 1975.
- Ware, Timothy, *"The Orthodox Church"*, Middlesex, England, Penguin Books, 1963.
- *"St. Patriarch Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America," OCA- Feasts and Saints: Life of a Saint*, Orthodox Church in America. <http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsLife.asp?FSID=101016>

Troparion *(Tone 1)*

Let us praise Tikhon, the patriarch of all Russia, and enlightener of North America
 An ardent follower of the Apostolic traditions, and good pastor of the Church of Christ
 Who was elected by divine providence, and laid down his life for his sheep.
 Let us sing to him with faith and hope, and ask for his hierarchical intercessions:
 Keep the Church in Russia in tranquility, and the Church in North America in peace.
 Gather her scattered children into one flock,
 Bring to repentance those who have renounced the True Faith,
 Preserve our lands from civil strife, and entreat God's peace for all people!

Kontakion *(Tone 3)*

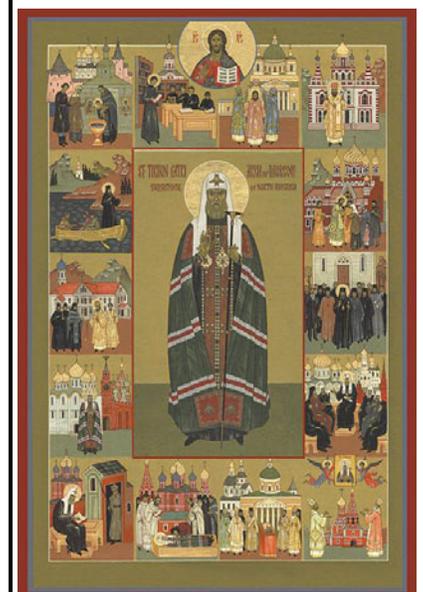
Today the assembly of the New Martyrs stands together within the Church
 And together we raise a festive song celebrating the uncovering of the relics of our
 hierarch Father Tikhon Who defeated the enemy and preserved the Faith while
 protecting the flock entrusted to him. For he ever prays for us all that we may never be
 deprived of the Love of God.

Key Terms

Aleutians: a chain of islands extending from Alaska. Many residents of this area, the Aleuts, are Orthodox Christians.

Patriarch: a bishop who governs one of the chief cities or authority centers of the Church.

Bolsheviks: a majority faction of the Social Democratic political party in Russia that seized power in 1917 and eventually formed the Communist Party.





Journal Prompts

St. Tikhon ✠ Patriarch of Moscow and Apostle to America

1. We read that St. Tikhon was elected Patriarch of Russia by lot. Read Acts 1:15-26, and then describe the situation in which the apostles used this same method. What does verse 24 tell us the apostles did before they cast lots?

2. Read the quotation from St. Tikhon. What are some ways we could carry out the duty he describes?

3. What specific difficulties did St. Tikhon encounter as he tried to follow Christ?

4. Do we encounter or see the same difficulties today?

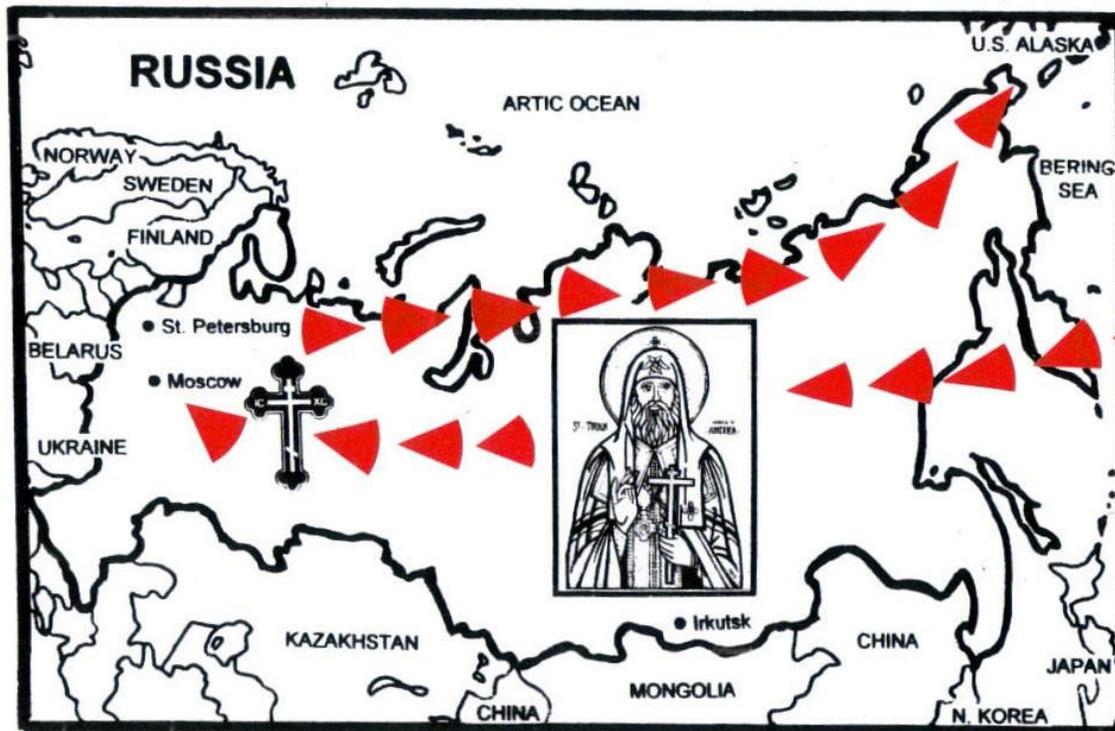
5. How would you respond in the face of these adversities?

6. What lessons are there for us to learn from the life of St. Tikhon living in times of trouble?

7. What guidance does the scripture offer us about handling difficult situations like this?



St. Tikhon's Travels



Add & Subtract

St. Tikhon

Here is an add-and-subtract puzzle. Find each letter called for by adding or subtracting letters. For example, T+3 is W, because you count forward 3 letters. G-2 is E, because you count backward 2 letters.

When you finish you will see something Saint Tikhon once asked all of us to do.
The alphabet is here to help you count.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

$\overline{D+2}$ $\overline{R-3}$ $\overline{P+2}$ $\overline{X-3}$ $\overline{Q+2}$

$\overline{O+4}$ $\overline{N+2}$ $\overline{T-2}$ $\overline{C+2}$ $\overline{C-2}$ $\overline{A+3}$ $\overline{H+1}$ $\overline{P-2}$ $\overline{E+2}$

$\overline{O+5}$ $\overline{E+3}$ $\overline{D+1}$ $\overline{D+2}$ $\overline{F-5}$ $\overline{G+2}$ $\overline{W-3}$ $\overline{G+1}$ $\overline{J+3}$ $\overline{T+1}$ $\overline{N+5}$ $\overline{V-2}$

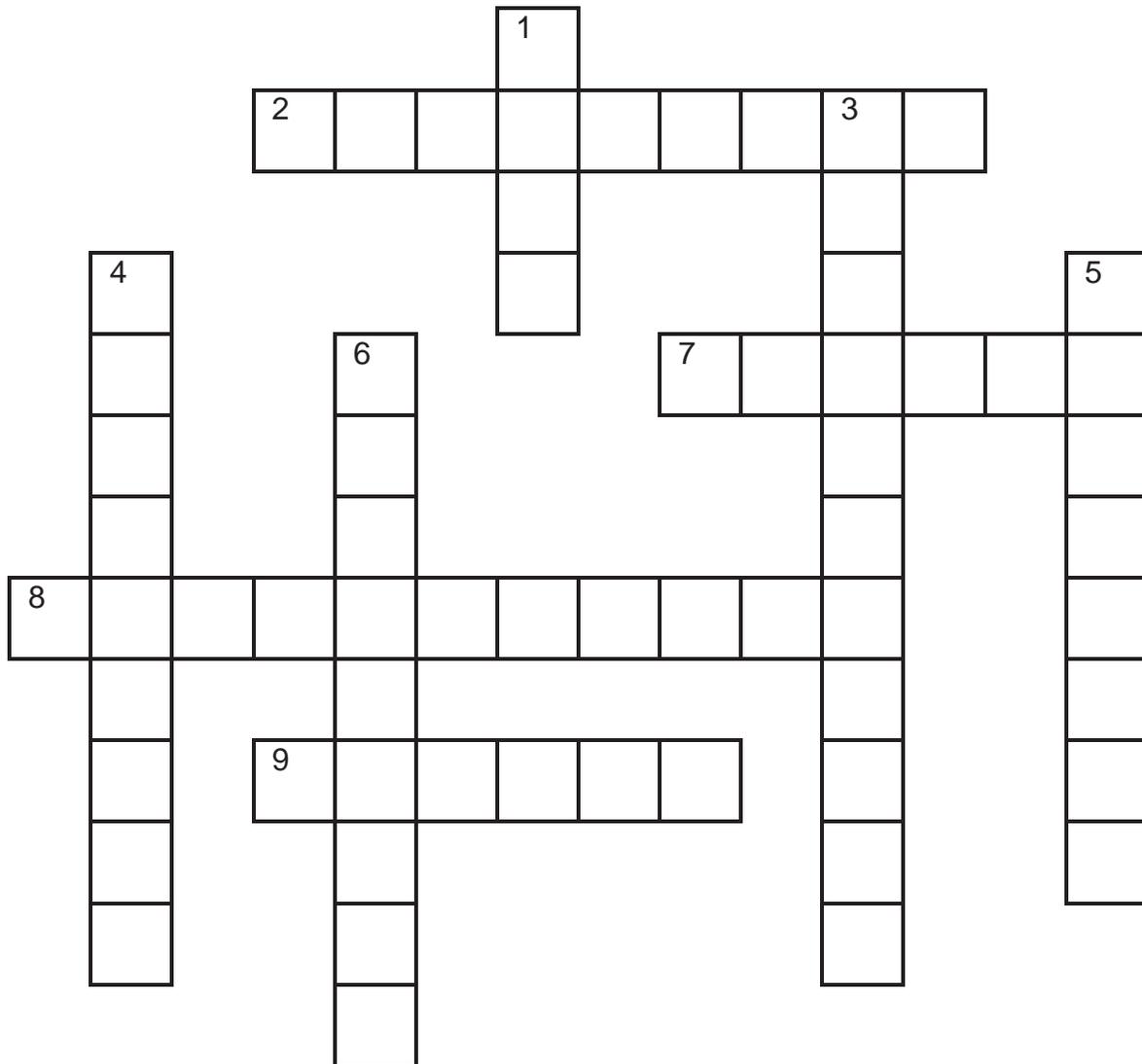
$\overline{G-5}$ $\overline{C+2}$ $\overline{C-2}$ $\overline{G-1}$ $\overline{D-3}$ $\overline{S+3}$ $\overline{L+3}$ $\overline{Q+1}$ $\overline{K-2}$ $\overline{Q+3}$ $\overline{H-3}$

$\overline{B-1}$ $\overline{P-2}$ $\overline{H-4}$ $\overline{M+3}$ $\overline{V-4}$ $\overline{A+4}$ $\overline{F-3}$ $\overline{G+2}$ $\overline{L+3}$ $\overline{W-2}$ $\overline{P+3}$

$\overline{V-2}$ $\overline{F-5}$ $\overline{R+1}$ $\overline{N-3}$

Crossword Puzzle

St Tikhon



ACROSS

- 2 The Russian political party that became the Communist Party
- 7 After 1417 in Russia priests were not allowed to do this
- 8 St. Paul tells us to be patient in this
- 9 St. Tikhon was the first one in North America

DOWN

- 1 Another word for emperor
- 3 St. Tikhon wanted the American Church to be this
- 4 To make a request or plea on behalf of another person
- 5 From the age of 13, St. Tikhon studied this
- 6 A chain of islands extending from Alaska

Glossary

Abbess	The head of a female monastery.
Abbot	A ruling monk or person who is in charge of a male monastery.
Aleutians	A chain of islands extending from Alaska. Many residents of this area, the Aleuts, are Orthodox Christians.
Anglo-Saxons	Tribes living and ruling over most of the British Isles (England, Scotland, and Wales).
Antiphonal	A style of chanting or singing in responsive, alternating parts. The Psalms are often sung or chanted antiphonally in our churches.
Apostate	A person who abandons something he or she once believed in, often religious faith.
Archimandrite	A title of honor. In earlier centuries it referred to the head of a large and important monastery, or of several monasteries.
Arduous	Difficult, requiring much labor or exertion.
Arians	Supporters of Arius, who taught that Jesus Christ is a created being like us, and therefore not equal to God the Father. The Arians were clever in getting followers, and caused great trouble in the Church because they wanted to get power, and to take authority away from those followed the true Christian teaching.
Assassinate	To murder by surprise attack, usually for political or religious reasons.
Beacon	A light or signal that guides.
Bishop	A monk who is elected to oversee a given area of churches.
Bolsheviks	A majority faction of the Social Democratic political party in Russia that seized power in 1917 and eventually formed the Communist Party.
Boxer Rebellion	This name came from a mistranslation of the Chinese name for the rebels, which was righteous uniting band (group.) It was mistakenly translated as righteous uniting fist, like the fist of a boxer.
Canonize	To make a deceased person an officially recognized saint.
Cardinal	A senior ecclesiastical official, usually a bishop, of the Catholic Church

Comana	The titular see of Asia Minor. According to ancient geographers, Comana was situated in Cappadocia.
Confessor	A person who proclaims his or her faith, often despite persecution. (A martyr is one who gives his or her life for the faith.)
Contemplation	Thinking or meditating deeply.
Convert	To change from one religious belief to another.
Crypt	An underground chamber. Often the crypts of churches were burial places. In times of persecution, worship services might be held in crypts to evade detection by the authorities.
Diplomat	A representative of a government who conducts dealings with other countries.
Disdain	(verb) to treat with contempt, to look down on.
Dissension	Quarreling, disagreement.
Dowager	A widow with a title or property coming from her dead husband. In China, where the elderly were respected as being wise and experienced, the Dowager Empress received special respect because she was old and also had been married to the Emperor.
Ecclesiastical divorce	A divorce granted by the Church in very unusual circumstances, such as when a married person deeply wished to become a monastic.
Embroider	To decorate fabric or other materials with designs stitched in strands of thread or yarn using a needle. Embroidery may also use other materials such as metal strips, pearls, beads, quills, and sequins.
Exile	Being forced to leave your home or country.
Extermination	Complete destruction.
Faction	A group of people within a larger organization who share common ideas, usually ideas opposed to those of the larger group or its leadership.
Glorification Services	The series of worship services that take place when a man or a woman is being canonized (declared a saint by the Church.) The Orthodox Services include hymns to the saint and the unveiling of his or her icon.
Guest master	A monk who takes care of the needs of visitors.
Hagia Sophia	The great Constantinople cathedral whose name means Holy Wisdom.

Hierarchical	Having to do with hierarchs (bishops, metropolitans, patriarchs) of the Church.
Influenza	Commonly known as the flu; is an infectious disease.
Intercession	Asking or praying on behalf of another; the verb is intercede.
Iona	An island in western Scotland, where a monastery was established by St. Columba and Irish monks around 563.
Irish/Gaelic	The language of those who lived in Ireland, Scotland and parts of Wales.
Khan	The title given to a ruler among the Mongols. The most famous is Genghis Khan, who conquered much of central Asia and lived from 1167 to 1227.
Lavra	a Greek word, meaning a monastery. Originally it was used to describe a cluster of cells for monks, with a church and sometimes a communal eating place attached.
Lindisfarne	A small island off the coast of northern England, near the Scottish border, close to the ancient royal fortress of Bamburg.
Malicious	(Adj) Having the nature of or resulting from malice; deliberately harmful; spiteful.
Martyr	A person who is killed for his or her faith.
Meekness	Gentleness, mild-temperedness.
Militia	An army made up of citizens rather than professional soldiers. Militias usually are called to action in times of crisis or emergency.
Missionary	A person(s) who goes out to explain about God to other people, usually in a foreign country.
Monastic	An unmarried man, known as a monk, or an unmarried woman, known as a sister, who lives a life of seclusion away from the world we live in. Men and women can both be referred to as a monistic.
Monk	A man who vows to serve God in a special way.
Monastery	A place where monks live, pray and work.
Neutrality	The status of not taking one side of the other in a war or conflict.
Northumbria	One of many ancient small kingdoms in England, called kingships. England, Scotland and Ireland were actually divided into many of these kingships, and those who ruled them were constantly in battle for land and control.

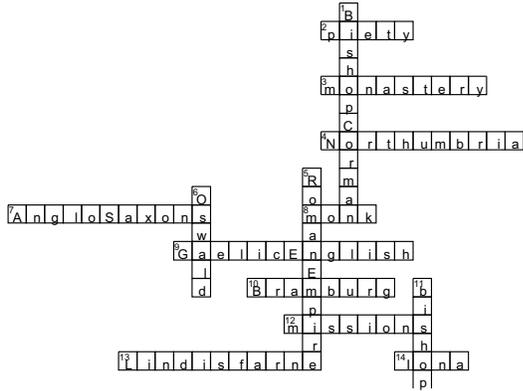
Novice	A person who is new to an activity, often used of a person starting out in monasticism.
Nun	A woman who takes monastic vows.
Ordination	The act of being set aside to serve the Church in the capacity of a deacon or a priest.
Orphanage	A place for children who have no parents or relatives that can take care of them.
Paratroopers	Soldiers trained and equipped to land behind enemy lines from planes, by parachute.
Partisan	A member of a group that strongly supports one side of a dispute or war. During World War II, many Christians in European countries fought as partisans against the anti-Christian Nazis.
Patriarch	a bishop who governs one of the chief cities or authority centers of the Church.
Plague	a deadly disease that killed many people (several centuries later, in the Middle Ages, the plague would kill 60% of Europe's population - it was then called the Black Death)
Pontus	The name of the north-eastern province of Asia Minor, a long and narrow strip of land on the southern coast of the Black Sea, from which the designation was later transferred to the country.
Principality	The territory ruled by a prince.
Prior	An assistant to the abbot or ruling monk of a monastery.
Professed	Avowed, declared, pledged.
Relic	An object that is esteemed and venerated because of its association with a Saint or Martyr.
Replenish	To make full again, to re-supply.
Repression	The act of keeping down, tightly controlling.
Revolution	A civil war overthrowing a country's government or social system and replacing it with another.
Shepherd	A person who cares for sheep in the pastures.
Slavic	The peoples or languages of eastern, southeastern and central Europe.

Tatars	Mongolian and Turkic tribes who invaded central and western Asia as well as eastern Europe in the Middle Ages. The control of the Tatars in Russia was sometimes referred to as the Mongol yoke. (sometimes spelled Tartars)
Teutonic Knights	A Roman Catholic crusading military order, originating in Germany.
Tonsure	Part of the process of becoming a monastic, in which the hair is cut as an offering to God.
Tribulation	Something that causes suffering or misery.
Uncreated Light	The Light of God Himself, not made by human effort. It is the light seen by the apostles at the Transfiguration, and by Saint Paul on the road to Damascus.
Visions	Special encounters with God through people or events.
Warlock	Among historic Christian traditions, said to be the male equivalent of witches (usually in the pejorative sense of Europe's Middle Ages), and were said to ride pitchforks instead of broomsticks which normally witches would ride.
Zeal	Strong enthusiasm, devotion to a cause or idea.

Criss Cross

St. Aidan
Answer Key

Complete the puzzle using the clues shown below.



Across

- love of God through prayer and good deeds, especially the poor
- where monks live, pray, and work
- an ancient Anglo-Saxon Kingdom in Scotland
- people who invaded England, Ireland and Scotland, and brought pagan religions
- a man who takes special vows to serve God
- language spoken in Scotland
- town where King Oswald's castle was located
- new churches established in different areas
- where Bishop Aidan was sent
- an island monastery in Scotland where Aidan was a monk

Down

- first bishop sent to Northumbria
- ancient empire which sent people to spread Christianity to Ireland, England, and Scotland
- king of Northumbria
- monk elected to oversee churches in a given area



Cryptogram

St. Aidan
Answer Key

Decode the message by finding each substitute letter or symbol.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
S	W	D	N	Z	O	L	U	I	B	C	Q	M	T	Y	A	K	G	H	V	E	X	J	R	F	P

I O N A W A S T H E M O N A S T E R Y W H E R E
I Y T S J S H V U Z M Y T S H V Z G F J U Z G Z

A I D A N L I V E D
S I N S T Q I X Z N

' F E E D W I T H M I L K F I R S T , R A T H E R
O Z Z N J I V U M I Q C O I G H V G S V U Z G

T H A N S O L I D F O O D '
V U S T H Y Q T N O Y Y N

S T . A I D A N W A S K N O W N F O R P I E T Y
H V S I N S T J S H C T Y J T O Y G A I Z V F

H U M I L I T Y A N D G E N E R O S I T Y
U E M I Q I V F S T N L Z T Z G Y H I V F

S A V E D T H E C I T Y O F B A M B U R G
H S X Z N V U Z D I V F Y O W S M W E G L

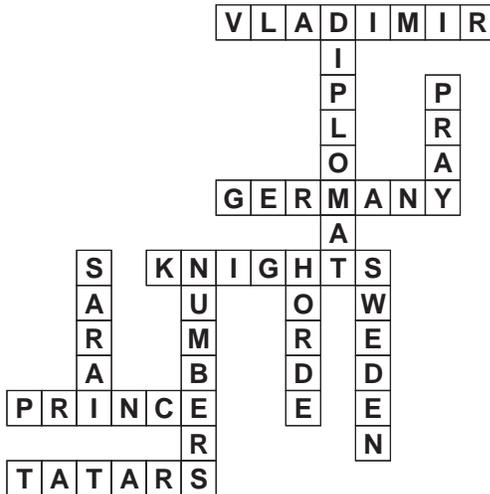
F R O M F I R E
O G Y M O I G Z



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Crossword Puzzle

St. Alexander Nevsky
Answer Key



ACROSS

- The place St. Alexander Nevsky was trying to reach on his final trip home from the Mongol capital
- The home country of the crusading military order
- Part of the name of a crusading military order
- The title held by St. Alexander Nevsky
- Another name for the Mongols

DOWN

- A person who works for the good of his or her country by conducting dealings with other countries
- What St. Alexander did before his great battles
- The Mongol capital
- St. Alexander said God's power is not in this word, but in truth
- Part of the name given to the Mongol
- A country that attacked Russia



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Fill In The Blanks

St. Alexander Nevsky
Answer Key

Unscramble the words in the Word Bank, then use them to fill in the blanks and complete the sentences. Read the story to find the answers.

- From his early years, Saint Alexander was raised to be a **soldier**
- The Mongols had such rich furnishings that they were called the **Golden Horde**
- Saint Alexander was called "Nevsky" because his battle was on the **Neva** River
- Alexander's victory over the Teutonic Knights was called the "Great **Battle** on the Ice"
- Mongol rulers were given the title **Khan**
- It was said that in dealing with the Mongols, Alexander needed the **wisdom** of a snake
- He also needed the meekness of an **angel**
- On his final journey home, Saint Alexander became ill. He stopped, and died, at a **monastery**

Word Bank

haKn, tetBal, sredilo, genla, delGon,
eystanmor, dswmoi, avNe



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Go With The Numbers

St. Andrei Rublev
Answer Key

Here is some simple math. When you have done the math, write the words in the numbered spaces. You will have a description of Saint Andrei Rublev's best-known work.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 40 - 30 = 10 showing | 9 - 8 = 1 Holy |
| 10 + 70 = 80 all | 24 + 20 = 44 us |
| 61 - 8 = 53 most | 6 + 3 = 9 Trinity |
| 30 + 7 = 37 icons | 2 + 1 = 3 of |
| 28 - 5 = 23 Russian | 2 + 4 = 6 the |
| 8 + 8 = 16 famous | |

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 6 = _____ | 53 = _____ | 16 = _____ |
| 3 = _____ | 80 = _____ | 23 = _____ |
| 37 = _____ | 10 = _____ | 44 = _____ |
| 6 = _____ | 1 = _____ | 9 = _____ |

Write your sentence here:

The most famous of all Russian icons, showing us the Holy Trinity.

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Missing Vowels

St. Andrei Rublev
Answer Key

We know that Saint Andrei Rublev was both a monk and an iconographer. Supply the vowels - A, E, I, O or U - where they belong in the words that follow, and you will be reminded of something important.

The monasteries of Russia
kept the arts and learning
alive in times of
war and suffering.

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Merge Puzzle

St. Barbara
Answer Key

Words in each line are merged together. Find the original words.
Hint: The letters that make up each word are still in their original order.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| BaNrBuarna | N u n | B a r b a r a |
| EliDuczahbeelshs | D u c h e e s s | E l i z a b e t h |
| PTaitrkihaornch | P a t r i a r c h | T i k h o n |
| NCautherinne | N u n | C a t h e r i n e |
| RBevolosluthioevnik | B o l s h e v i k | R e v o l u t i o n |
| Alapaevk
Siberia | A l a p a e v k | |
| mdinoaeswhafnt | d o w n | a m i n e s h a f t |
| sihnygmings | s i n g i n g | h y m n s |
| Jreelritucosalsem | r e l i c s | t o J e r u s a l e m |
| SMMaatgdalernye | S t . | M a r y M a g d a l e n e |

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Word Search

St. Barbara
Answer Key

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

S	T	B	A	R	M	H	B	A	R	A	O	F	R	U
S	S	I	A	C	Q	A	Y	T	R	R	S	Y	S	S
C	H	J	H	C	J	P	R	M	N	H	A	U	W	C
X	H	I	C	K	J	C	O	T	N	E	W	R	J	M
E	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	C	Y	S	V	J	I	J
A	S	K	N	F	N	G	K	J	Z	R	I	N	E	X
A	I	R	E	B	I	S	Y	I	K	U	E	R	O	L
N	O	I	T	U	L	O	V	E	R	S	U	P	N	C
A	U	N	M	C	X	X	C	V	H	S	A	W	M	F
S	R	O	R	E	G	U	T	A	A	Y	B	C	P	E
H	B	A	E	J	L	S	F	L	X	K	U	I	L	T
I	O	N	B	Q	C	T	E	Q	L	Q	H	Q	E	N
N	U	O	U	R	U	M	N	J	D	M	N	K	E	H
N	T	B	L	M	A	I	D	S	E	R	V	A	N	T
A	A	Y	K	Q	B	F	A	V	O	C	S	U	S	

S t . B a r b a r a o f R u s s i a

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Barbara | convent | maidservant | nun |
| Catherine | hymns | martyr | revolution |
| China | Jerusalem | mineshaft | Siberia |

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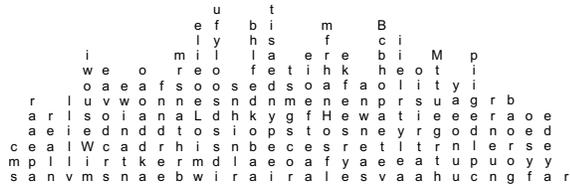
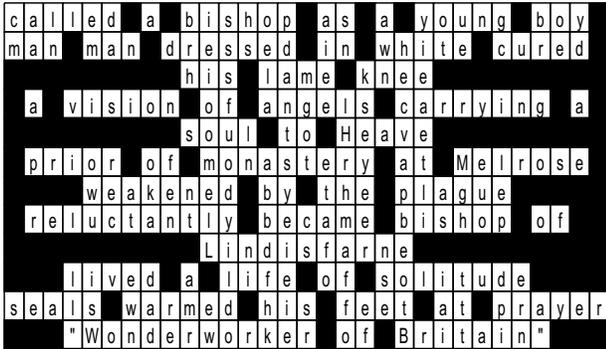


Fallen Phrase

St. Cuthbert

Answer Key

Find the hidden phrase by using the letters directly below each of the blank squares. Each letter is used once.

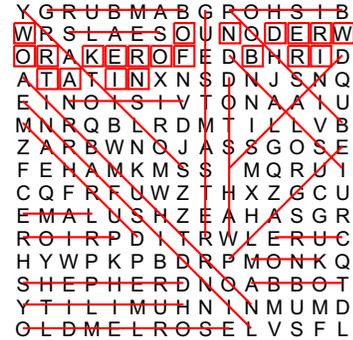


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Word Search

St. Cuthbert
Answer Key

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.



Wonderworker of Britain

- abbot
- Bamburg
- bishop
- bishop
- cure
- Durham
- guestmaster
- humility
- island
- island
- lame
- Lindisfarne
- monk
- Northumbria
- Old Melrose
- plague
- prior
- seals
- shepherd
- solitary
- vision
- Wahistod



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Word Find

St. Gorazd

Answer Key

Find these eight words in the puzzle below:

DOWN FRIENDS GREATER LAY
LIFE LOVE MAN THIS



Look up John 15:13 to see where these words, which apply so well to St. Gorazd, come from.



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Gather the Letters

St. Gorazd

Answer Key

Fill in the correct answers to the following questions, using the word bank. At the end of each filled in sentence is a number. The number corresponds to the letters in your answer. (For example, if the answer is Gorazd and the number is 3, the letter is R. If the numbers are 1 and 4, the letters are G and A.)

- 2 While a student, Saint Gorazd became interested in the mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius (1 and 3) Letter answers are M and T
- 2 Saint Gorazd's field of study was theology (2) Letter answer is H
- 4 Saint Gorazd was born in Moravia, an area of what is now the Czech Republic (2, 3 and 4) Letter answers are O, R, and A
- 4 Saint Gorazd was appointed to oversee three areas: Moravia, Silesia, and Bohemia (1 and 6) Letter answers are B and I
- 6 The men who killed the Nazi officer hid in the crypt of the Orthodox cathedral (3) Letter answer is Y
- 6 This cathedral is in the capital city of the Czech Republic, named Prague (1 and 2) Letter answers are P and R
- 8 The Nazis wanted the Orthodox Metropolitan in Berlin to condemn Saint Gorazd, but the Metropolitan refused to do so (5) Letter answer is S

WORD BANK:

Prague, Moravia, crypt, Bohemia, refused, Methodius, theology

When you have filled in all the answers, gather the letters that the numbers give you. Arrange them to form two words of six letters each that describe Saint Gorazd.

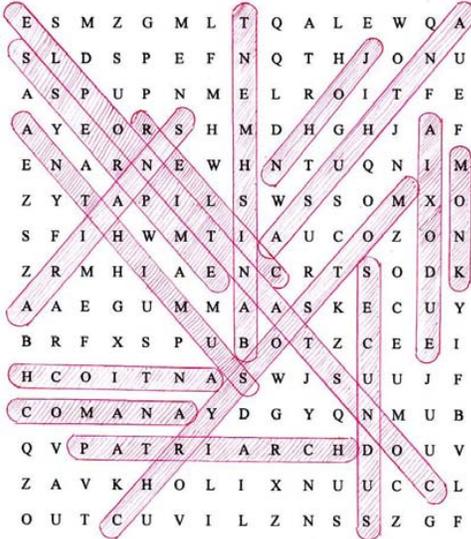
The words are: BISHOP and MARTYR



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Cross Word Puzzle

St. John Chrysostom
Answer Key



ANTHIMUS ANTHUSA ANTIUCH
ARIANS BANISHMENT CHRYSOSTOM
COMANA CONSTANTINOPLE EMPRESS
EUDOXIA JOHN MONK
PATRIARCH RELICS SECUNDUS

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Word Scramble

St. John Chrysostom
Answer Key

1. St. John was called the Golden Mouthed.
2. He was born in Antioch.
3. Empress Eudoxia wanted him banished.
4. He was a powerful speaker.
5. He was Patriarch of Constantinople.
6. He died in the city of Comana.
7. His death occurred on the feastday of the Exaltation of the Cross.
8. His relics were stolen by Crusaders.

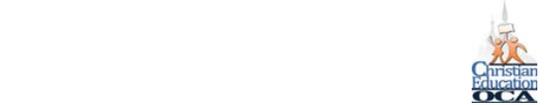
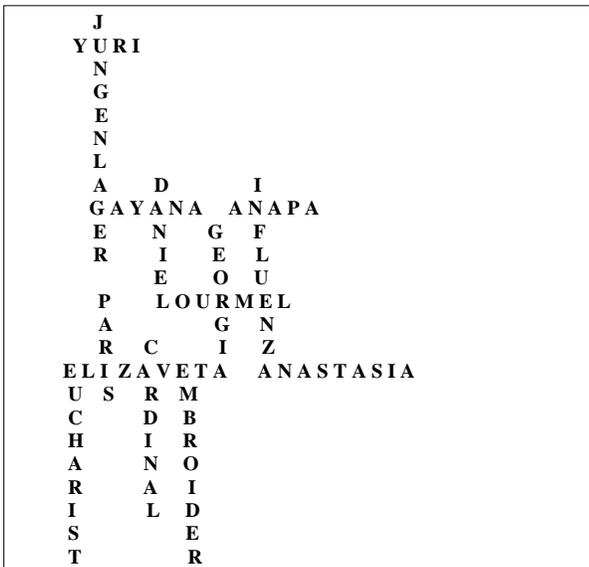
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Cross Word Puzzle

St. Maria Skobtsova

Answer Key



Cryptogram

St. Maria Skobtsova

Answer Key

Complete the cryptogram to reveal an important event in the life of Mother Maria

HINTS : R = M and C=X

We have the alphabet and a grid below to help you decipher the cryptogram:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U

R T Y M J W R F W N F
M O T H E R M A R I A

I N J I F X F R F W Y D W,
D I E D A S A M A R T Y R,

T S Y M J J A J
O N T H E E V E

R K J F X Y J W.
O F E A S T E R.

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Fill in the Blanks

St. Mitrophan
Answer Key

Choose the right word from the Word Bank to fill in the blank in each sentence.

- The Orthodox Church in China began because the Russians had a military **outpost** there.
- Saint Mitrophan was ordained a priest by Bishop **Nicholas** of **Japan**.
- Father Mitrophan spent much of his time **translating** service books for the Chinese Orthodox.
- The Boxer Rebellion started because some Chinese, including the Dowager **Empress**, feared foreigners.
- Father Mitrophan and many Orthodox Christians with him were killed in his own **yard**.
- Father Mitrophan's surviving son became a **priest**.

WORD BANK:

Japan, basement, court, Formosa, yard, Nicholas, Priest, Emperor, copying, Empress, outpost, John, translating, Sergius, Bishop



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True or False Arithmetic

St. Mitrophan
Answer Key

To do this activity, read the story about St. Mitrophan. Then, without looking back at the story, decide whether each of the following statements is true or false, and do the arithmetic. (For example: if you decide that Statement A is true, you will add 5 to your Starting Number, which is 20. If you decide it is false, you will subtract 3 from the Starting Number.) Can you come up with the final number given at the end? Here goes:

- The Chinese Orthodox Church began with a Greek military outpost in China.
If true, add 5. If false, subtract 3. **A 17**
- Some soldiers from the outpost in China became the Chinese Emperor's bodyguards.
If true, add 4. If false, add 1. **B 21**
- The Orthodox Faith was admired by China's Dowager Empress.
If true, add 8. If false, add 6. **C 27**
- The "Boxers" wanted to get rid of ancient Chinese traditions.
If true, add 4. If false, multiply by 2. **D 54**
- St. Mitrophan wanted to be a priest from the time he was very young.
If true, subtract 4. If false, subtract 7. **E 47**
- St. Mitrophan was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Nikolai of Japan.
If true, add 2. If false, subtract 5. **F 49**
- St. Mitrophan translated Orthodox worship services into Chinese.
If true, multiply by 3. If false, multiply by 4. **G 147**
- The fiancée of St. Mitrophan's son escaped death by climbing over a wall.
If true, add 6. If false, add 3. **H 150**
- Saint Mitrophan's surviving son became an Orthodox priest.
If true, add 7. If false, add 9. **I 157**

The correct final answer is: 157
Did you get it right?



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Cross Them Out

St. Olympias

Answer Key

Follow the numbered instructions and cross out words from the group of words below. When you finish, read the lower part of the page to find out what to do next.

- Cross out things that have tails: **mouse, elephant**
- Cross out a word that means a person who is followed by others: **leader**
- Cross out any words that rhyme with ABLE: **gable, stable, label**
- Cross out a word that means what you should do with money: **save**
- Cross out 2 words that rhyme. One means to look angry or upset. The other means a king's "hat": **frown, crown**
- Cross out 2 things you can do with potatoes: **fry, mash**
- Cross out a word that means to push hard: **shove**
- Cross out something you dig: **hole**
- Cross out LAKE and any words that rhyme with LAKE: **fake, take, rake**
- Cross out a word that goes with NORTH, EAST and WEST: **south**
- Cross out the name of an organ in your body that rhymes with "queen": **spleen**

HOLE FROWN GABLE EVERY SHOVE LAKE SAVE
FROM GIVE WHO MOUSE SPLEEN BEGS FAKE
LEADER TO CROWN FRY TAKE MASH SOUTH
STABLE LABEL ONE RAKE YOU ELEPHANT

Once you have finished crossing out, put the remaining words in order to mean something that Our Lord Jesus Christ told us to do, and which Saint Olympias definitely did. Write your answer here:

"Give to every one who begs from you."

Did you get it? Check your answer in Luke 6:30



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Unscramble Puzzle

St. Olympias

Answer Key

In the prayer for the ordination of a deaconess, the names of four other women are mentioned. Here are three things for you to do:

- Unscramble the names.
- Look up the places where each woman is mentioned in the Bible, and write the correct Bible verse in the column next to each woman's name.
- Unscramble the words from the Bible—each one is found in one of the verses, and has something to do with one woman. Put the correct word in the third column by the woman's name.

Name:	Bible Verse:	Word:	
IRAMMI	Miriam	Exodus 15:20-21	song
DHALHU	Huldah	2 Kings 22:12-14	book
NANA	Anna	Luke 2:36-37	temple
HARBDOE	Deborah	Judges 4:1-8	prophetess

BIBLE VERSES (choose one for each woman):
2 Kings 22:12-14, Judges 4:1-8, Luke 2:36-37, Exodus 15:20-21
(Note: Revised Standard Version)

BIBLE WORDS (choose one for each woman):
okob, gans, pemite, ethorspess

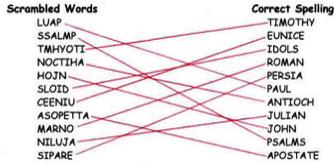


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Word Scramble

St. Poplia

Unscramble the words in the group below and draw a line to match them to the correct spelling.



Now put the words where they belong to complete these sentences:

- St. Poplia was a citizen of the **Roman** Empire.
- The Emperor at that time was named **Julian**.
- Because he had turned his back on Christianity, the Emperor was known in history as "the **Apostate**."
- Poplia's son was named **John**.
- Her home was the city of **Antioch**.
- Poplia and the group of nuns she led often sang **psalms** together.
- The Emperor was angry because the verses the nuns were singing seemed to criticize his worship of **idols**.
- The Emperor told Poplia she would be executed when he returned from a military campaign in **Persia**.
- The apostle **Paul** writes about another faithful Christian woman, who also had a son.
- Her name was **Eunice**.
- Her son's name was **Timothy**.



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Word Search

St. Poplia

Answer Key

After reading the story of St. Poplia find the following four words in the Word Search Puzzle: **ABBESS, CONFESSOR, DEACONESS, MOTHER**.

There is a fifth word which you will find in the story of St. Poplia's life. Here's a hint: *the word has 5 letters, and begins and ends with the same letter.*



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Add & Subtract

St. Tikhon

Answer Key

Here is an add-and-subtract puzzle. Find each letter called for by adding or subtracting letters. For example, T+3 is W, because you count forward 3 letters. G-2 is E, because you count backward 2 letters.

When you finish you will see something Saint Tikhon once asked all of us to do. The alphabet is here to help you count.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

F O R U S
D+2 R-3 P+2 X-3 Q+2

S P R E A D I N G
O+4 N+2 T-2 C+2 C-2 A+3 H+1 P-2 E+2

T H E F A I T H M U S T
O+5 E+3 D+1 D+2 F-5 G+2 W-3 G+1 J+3 T+1 N+5 V-2

B E A F A V O R I T E
G-5 C+2 C-2 G-1 D-3 S+3 L+3 Q+1 K-2 Q+3 H-3

A N D P R E C I O U S
B-1 P-2 H-4 M+3 V-4 A+4 F-3 G+2 L-3 W-2 P+3

T A S K
V-2 F-5 R+1 N-3

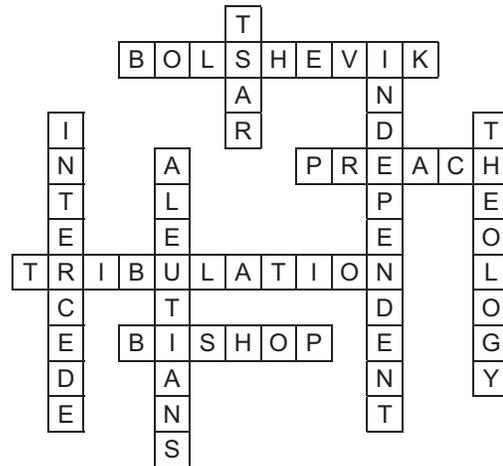
"For us, spreading the faith must be a favorite and precious task."



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Crossword Puzzle

St. Tikhon
Answer Key



- ACROSS
- The Russian political party that became the Communist Party
 - After 1417 in Russia priests were not allowed to do this
 - St. Paul tells us to be patient in this
 - St. Tikhon was the first one in North America

- DOWN
- Another word for emperor
 - St. Tikhon wanted the American Church to be this
 - To make a request or plea on behalf of another person
 - From the age of 13, St. Tikhon studied this
 - A chain of islands extending from Alaska



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