



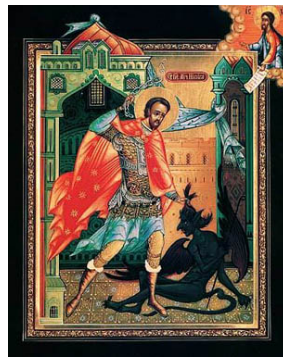
## NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**15th Week after Pentecost**

**Monday, September 27 — Sunday, October 3, 2021**



***The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross***



***Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth***



***Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised, of Chalcedon***

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## ~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

Having had the opportunity to paint/write a few icons, I found it to be a transcendent experience. Unlike most of the art of this world, wherein when you look at it you are seeing a place or a person or a circumstance, when you stand before an icon and you see the image depicted, you immediately focus upon what the image represents. And this has an immediate impact upon your soul. During the 7th Ecumenical Council, icons were once again restored for usage in the churches and in homes of the faithful. St. John of Damascus states the following:

“In former times, God, who is without form or body, could never be depicted. But now when God is seen in the flesh conversing with men, I make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake.”

Glory to Jesus Christ!

— Fr. John

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## ~ TWITTER SUMMARY ~

***The main points from Sunday’s sermon, in 280 characters or less!***

We don’t want to miss out on the wedding feast. We must strive to enter in by the straight and narrow gate. We receive our wedding garment at baptism, and then we must fight to defend it with spiritual warfare. The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by force.

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**~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~**

*Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ MONDAY ~</b> <b>(9/27)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 Exaltation John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 Exaltation</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-creating Cross, Troparion of the Cross in Tone I —</b> O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance./ Grant victory unto Orthodox Christians over their adversaries,/ and by virtue of Thy Cross,// preserve Thy habitation.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ TUESDAY~</b> <b>(9/28)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> 2 Timothy 2:1-10 Great-martyr Nicetas Matthew 10:16-22 Great-martyr Nicetas</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Troparion of the Holy Greatmartyr Nicetas in Tone IV —</b> Taking up the Cross of Christ ardently, as it were a sword,/ thou didst make haste to do battle with the enemy,/ and, suffering for Christ, thou didst at last commit thy sacred soul to the Lord,/ and hence thou hast been vouchsafed to receive from Him gifts of healing,/ O greatmartyr Nicetas. Entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth (372)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ WEDNESDAY~</b> <b>(9/29)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 3:15-22 Mark 6:7-13</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Troparion of the Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia in Tone IV —</b> Thy ewe-lamb Euphemia crieth out to Thee with a loud voice, O Jesus:/ "I love Thee, O my Bridegroom,/ and, seeking Thee, I pass through many struggles:/ I am crucified and buried with Thee in Thy baptism / and suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee;/ I die for Thee that I might live with Thee./ As an unblemished sacrifice accept me,/ who sacrifice myself with love for Thee// By her supplications save Thou our souls, in that Thou art merciful.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ THURSDAY~</b> <b>(9/30)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 3:23-4:5 Mark 6:30-45</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters, Troparion in Tone IV —</b> In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God; / for, possessed of Thy might, / they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// by their supplications save Thou our souls.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadezhda), and Love (Lyubov), at Rome (137)</p>

<p>Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised, of Chalcedon (304)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ FRIDAY ~</b> <b>(10/1)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 4:8-21 Mark 6:45-53</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Venerable Father Eumenius, Bishop of Gortyna, the Wonderworker, Troparion of the Hierarch in Tone IV —</b> <i>The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, / a model of meekness and a teacher of abstinence/ wherefore thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Eumenius our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</i></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Venerable Eumenes, bishop of Gortyna (7th c.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ SATURDAY ~</b> <b>(10/2)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5 Matthew 24:1-13</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedon, Troparion in Tone VIII —</b> <i>God Who is glorified in Trinity hath glorified a trinity of martyrs:/ Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedon./ For, believing in Him, they cast down the enemy.// By their supplications, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.</i></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedon of Synnada (276)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ SUNDAY ~</b> <b>(10/3)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 2:16-20 Sunday after the Universal Elevation Mark 8:34-9:1 Sunday after the Universal Elevation</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion :</b> <b>Holy Greatmartyr Eustathius and those with him, Troparion of the martyrs in Tone IV —</b> <i>In their sufferings, O Lord,/ Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// By their supplications save Thou our souls.</i></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Great-martyr Eustathius (Eustace) Placidus, his wife Martyr Theopistes, and their children Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (118)</p>	<p><b><i>“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”</i></b></p> <p>[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p><b>To read more:</b> <a href="https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/">https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</a></p>

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## ~ PONDER THIS ~

*A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.*

### Greatmartyr Euphemia

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2014/07/11/102002-greatmartyr-euphemia-the-all-praised>

At the Fourth Ecumenical Council, the Orthodox hierarchs and their opponents wrote down their confessions of faith on separate scrolls and sealed them with their seals. They opened the tomb of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia and placed both scrolls upon her bosom. Then, in the presence of the emperor Marcian (450-457), the participants of the Council sealed the tomb, putting on it the imperial seal and setting a guard to watch over it for three days. During these days both sides imposed upon themselves strict fast and made intense prayer. After three days the patriarch and the emperor in the presence of the Council opened the tomb with its relics: the scroll with the Orthodox confession was held by Saint Euphemia in her right hand, and the scroll of the heretics lay at her feet. Saint Euphemia, as though alive, raised her hand and gave the scroll to the patriarch.

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## ~LOOK IT UP ~

**Did you know:** Saint Eustáthios' (2nd Century AD) story is much like the ancient patriarch Job. He lost his wife and children only to be restored by God later.

**Read more:**

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2014/09/20/102674-greatmartyr-eustthios-placidus-with-his-wife-and-children-of-rom>

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## ~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Sister Seraphima, memory eternal, and her family
- Healthcare workers and anyone at risk of contracting the COVID virus

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To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

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Matushka Deborah Tomasi \* (310) 849-9451 \* [deborah\\_tomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:deborah_tomasi@yahoo.com)

**Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!**