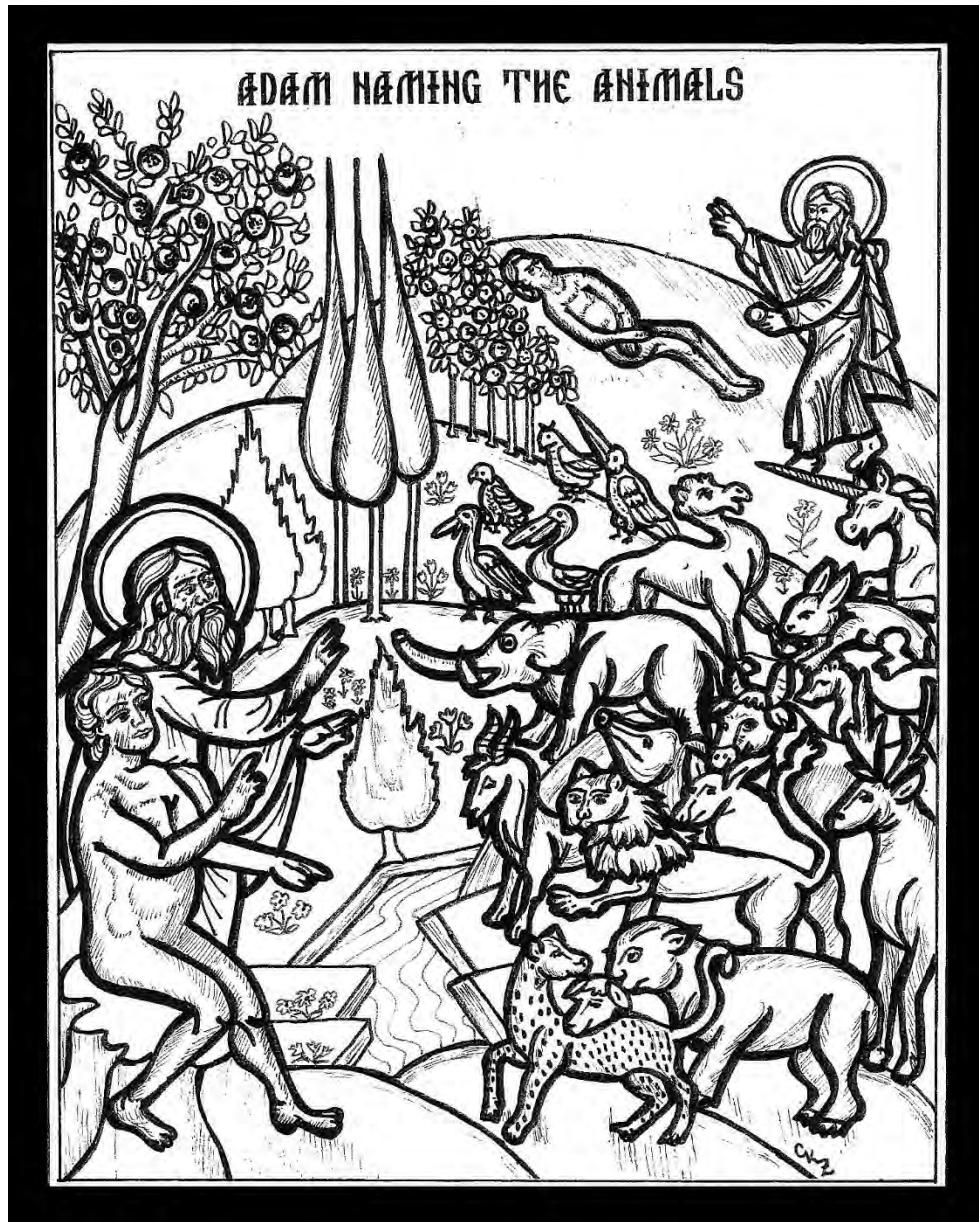


# SAINTS

## AND THE ANIMALS THAT SERVED THEM



An Activity Book for Orthodox Children and Parents

Department of Christian Education • Orthodox Church in America

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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](mailto: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

There is something about the animal kingdom that fascinates man, indeed touches his heart. A natural bond between the two has been present from "the beginning." In Genesis we read that God brought to Adam all of the animals, *"to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name"* (Genesis 2:19). Through this act of naming our first forefather exercised an ability to know the profound meaning of creation, of each living thing. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, of blessed memory, wrote:

*The significant fact about the life in the Garden is that man is to name things. As soon as animals have been created to keep Adam company, God brings them to Adam to see what he will call them...Now in the Bible a name is infinitely more than a means to distinguish one thing from another. It reveals the very essence of a thing, or rather its essence as God's gift. To name a thing is to manifest the meaning and value God gave it, to know it as coming from God and to know its place and function within the cosmos created by God.<sup>1</sup>*

The naming of the animals was also an expression of Adam's participation in God's creative process, and of paradisiacal harmony.<sup>2</sup> Within this initial cosmic balance man occupied a unique position. He was the crown of creation, fashioned in the Creator's Image. Thus, man enjoyed a divinely appointed right to govern in accordance with the Creator's will. He was told by God to, *"...fill the earth and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth"* (Genesis 1:28). As king, man possessed a peaceful, unspoiled relationship with all things, including animals. They, along with the elements of creation, heard his voice and obeyed.<sup>3</sup> Yet he was not only their king, he was prophet as well, for he spoke and they listened. Furthermore, he exercised the role of priest, since from the start man's rule included thanksgiving to God, offerings of praise for the world entrusted to his care. Thus, his rule was sacramental by definition and not absolute. Through creation itself man knew his Creator. His ability to govern was gratefully received as a divine gift, an expression and a reflection of God's ultimate reign. Once again Fr. Schmemmann explains that:

*The first, the basic definition of man is that he is the priest. He stands in the center of the world and unifies it in his act of blessing God, of both receiving the world from God and offering it to God -- and by filling the world with this eucharist, he transforms his life, the one that he receives from the world, into life in God, into communion with Him. The world was created as the "matter," the material of one all-embracing eucharist, and man was created as the priest of this cosmic sacrament.<sup>4</sup>*

The Fall of man, however, disrupted this natural order. Yet, man's instinctive love of creation and -- for our purposes -- the animal kingdom, was not lost. To be sure, through sin man's compassionate dominion over creatures was replaced by his desire to control all things for personal gain and satisfaction. This lust of power proceeded as well from an illusory sense of the created order as an ultimate source of security: the world was no longer perceived as "sacrament" but became an end in itself, an object of adoration and devotion.

Even so, man's basic love for creation, as well as a fondness and need for animals, continued. Throughout history animals have been a source of both friendship and survival. Certain cultures exhibit a heightened approach to creation that includes a notion of "the sacred," as well as a reverence for animals. This fact was particularly helpful to the early Christian missionaries in



Alaska. The pagan roots of Native Americans, their respect for the created order, provided fertile ground for the Gospel which itself affirms the world's inherent goodness. While laying the foundation of Faith in this new land, St. Herman, St. Juvenaly and those with them, and later St. Innocent, took to heart the words of St. Paul to the Philippians, affirming truth and goodness wherever these were found. They sought commonalities -- points of contact -- with the indigenous population that could facilitate the dissemination of the Good News: *"Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things"* (Philippians 4:8).

In the preface to his impressive work, *Orthodox Alaska: A Theology of Mission*, Fr. Michael Oleksa refers to this "immediate link" between the Gospel of Christ and the native Alaskans, pointing especially to Eskimo hunters and Aleut fishermen as those who know and understand the iconic character of nature, revealing God to man. Fr. Michael writes:

*The visible, created world possesses an eternal spiritual value, without which Christianity can no longer be considered "catholic," complete, whole.*

*The affirmation of this fundamental truth within the sacramental life of the Orthodox Church constituted an immediate link between Christianity and the religious traditions of the Alaskan peoples. Nature is not God, but nature reveals Him. Matter is not the opposite but the icon of the Spirit. The cosmos is symbolic in the fullest sense of the term, participating in the reality of its Prototype without exhausting Him. These complex theological themes might seem difficult for modern, twentieth-century secularized citizens to comprehend, but there are in Alaska, Eskimo hunters and Aleut fishermen who know and understand this iconic character of Reality, and who live by it, for the Lord has seen fit to perfect praise "from the mouths of babes," and reveal His Wisdom to the "simple."<sup>5</sup>*

The Good News received by these Eskimos and Aleuts affirms that with the advent of Christ the original integrity of creation was re-established, its meaning as "sacrament" restored and revealed. In Christ the Kingdom of God is open to man. The presence and power of that Kingdom is experienced by man pre-eminently in the Eucharist, in his rediscovery and acceptance of his role as *priest* and of creation as *gift*. It is further displayed through the miraculous acts and words of Jesus' followers. Through Christ, man fulfills his God given destiny to be not only priest, but prophet and king as well. Once again man speaks and the world's elements obey, as testimony to the restoration of the "natural order" in Christ.

Our Lord first and foremost, and the Saints as well, displayed such power; their feats most often called miracles. Through the eyes of many, miracles are extraordinary acts of divine intervention, accomplished by men and women of uncommon devotion. Through the eyes of Faith however, these acts *simply* reveal the miraculous life to which each person is called, a life in fact which should not be uncommon at all. What Metropolitan Anthony Bloom says regarding God and the miraculous may be applied directly to the lives of the Saints as they exercised His dominion over creation and creatures, testifying to the restoration of all things in Christ:

*A miracle is not something which is marvelous, although it appears so to us; a miracle is the normal relationship between God and his world, the supple, live, loving relationship there can be between what God has made, capable of knowing him, of hearing him, and himself. This, I believe, is true to biblical theology, this is also true to the teaching of the apostles, to the teaching and indeed to the life and experience of the Church.<sup>6</sup>*

In the present work by the Department of Christian Education (DCE) of the Orthodox Church in America, the *miraculous* is highlighted in particular ways, describing twelve "Saints and the Animals that Served Them." These accounts of eleven men and one woman, of their accomplishments and distinct bonds with wild creatures, will prove to be helpful tools initiating discussions on the various topics just mentioned, and more.

Our Venerable Father Brendan of Ireland -- found in this collection -- comes to mind as an "all purpose" starting point for such discussions. For instance, through Brendan's life man's place in the world as *priest* may be taught by appealing to the image of his Paschal Liturgy celebrated on the back of a whale. Man's role as both *king* and *prophet* is demonstrated by Brendan's legendary ability to captivate even the fish of the sea with his words as he preached the Gospel in his boat to fellow passengers. These acts also serve as examples of the miraculous while affirming the inherent goodness of creation. Even the topics of evangelism and Christian mission may be emphasized through Brendan's achievements as navigator and voyager. Known as the "traveling monk," he helped to establish both churches and monastic communities during his many journeys.

This most recent creation of the Department of Christian Education is the fourth offering in the well-received "Lives of Saints" series. It is preceded by similarly styled works entitled: *Saints of North America*, *Saints in Times of Trouble*, and *Saints Commemorated in the Litiya Prayers*. These may be accessed easily through the Orthodox Church in America's website: oca.org. Each installment contains concise, informative, easy to read histories of the Saints; detailed maps of their lives and travels; respective Troparia and Kontakia; entertaining word games and puzzles; helpful resources for further information; as well as beautiful and original iconographic line drawings of the Saints which may be used as handouts, enlarged for classroom use and bulletin boards, or given to children to color.

The present work will undoubtedly have a distinct appeal to students by providing biographies (hagiographies) of a dozen Saints whose lives are traditionally associated with specific animals. Additionally these accounts may offer teachers and parents a useful means of emphasizing a genuine paradisiacal-like harmony between man and creation that may be found even now, in this fallen world, as experienced by the most faithful followers of Christ. Our Venerable Father Isaac the Syrian refers to this latter phenomenon in one of his Ascetical Homilies:

*The humble man approaches ravening beasts, and when their gaze rests upon him, their wildness is tamed. They come up to him as to their Master, wag their heads and tails, and lick his hands and feet, for they smell coming from him that same scent that exhaled from Adam before the fall, when they were gathered together before him and he gave them names in Paradise. This was taken away from us, but Jesus has renewed it, and given it back to us through His Coming. This it is which has sweetened the fragrance of the race of men.<sup>7</sup>*

The above reference to the taming of "ravening beasts" reminds us specifically of three Saints described in the present work: of St. Gerasimus and the lion he rescued from pain, as well as St. Seraphim and St. Sergius who befriended and fed wild bears. Isaac's description of animals licking the hands and feet of the humble man -- who is a sign to them of Adam prior to the fall -- draws our attention to St. Kevin. While deep in prayer this hermit occasionally had his clothing and feet licked by cows who wandered into his cave. The cows belonged to a neighboring farmer and their devotion to Kevin led to the farmer's eventual conversion. St. Kevin may also be used as a vivid example of *man as priest* within God's creation. It is said that with arms outstretched he prayed for forty days so as not to disturb a blackbird and her young who nested in his open hand.

These Saints are among those whose lives are portrayed in this most recent DCE creation. Contained herein are the following in alphabetical order:

- The Hieromartyr Artemon, Presbyter of Laodicea in Syria, (3rd and early 4th centuries)
- The Venerable Brendan of Clonfert, Navigator and Voyager, (5th and 6th centuries)
- The Holy and Glorious Prophet Elijah, (9th century B.C)
- The Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria, (2nd century)
- The Venerable Gerasimus of the Jordan, (5th century)
- The Venerable Kevin of Ireland, (late 5th, 6th, and 7th centuries)
- The Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia, (3rd century)
- The Venerable Mary of Egypt, (4th and 5th centuries)
- The Wonderworker and Great Martyr Menas of Egypt, (late 3rd and early 4th centuries)
- The Venerable Wonderworker Seraphim of Sarov, (18th and 19 centuries)
- The Venerable Wonderworker Sergius of Radonezh, (14th century)
- The Martyr Tryphon of Syria, (3rd century)

As teachers and parents discuss the lives of these Saints with children, they might also consider for discussion contemporary accounts of people whose fascination with animals led to helpful research as well as to a closeness to the animals themselves, even outside the specific context of the Gospel and Church life. One famous example comes to mind, that of Dian Fossey whose efforts amongst gorillas were described in a book, then movie, *Gorillas in the Mist*. Interestingly Ms. Fossey met with a tragic end at the hands of men, and not at the hands of her powerful animal friends with whom she was buried.

Equally fascinating are stories that describe everyday people gaining the trust of, and at times maintaining friendships with, wild creatures in their natural surroundings. Videos abound concerning this phenomenon, people from their own hands feeding squirrels, wild deer, even bears. Such accounts from everyday life, however, require explanations and notes of extreme caution when speaking to young children.

In addition, they can serve as *practical, tangible* introductions for discussing the meaning of the lives of *Saints and the Animals that Served Them*. Indeed our own brief friendly encounters with animals in the wild provide a mere taste of the profound joy and understanding of creation as experienced by the Saints. Everyday pets provide us with a similar experience as well; a glimpse, a hint of the bond between man and animals that has existed from "the beginning."

**Archpriest Basil Zebrun**  
Department of Christian Education  
*Orthodox Church in America*



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<sup>1</sup> Schmemann, Alexander, *For the Life of the World*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood, NY, 1973, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Bloom, Metropolitan Anthony, *Body and Matter in Spiritual Life*. Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, mitras.ru/eng.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Schmemann, *Ibid.*

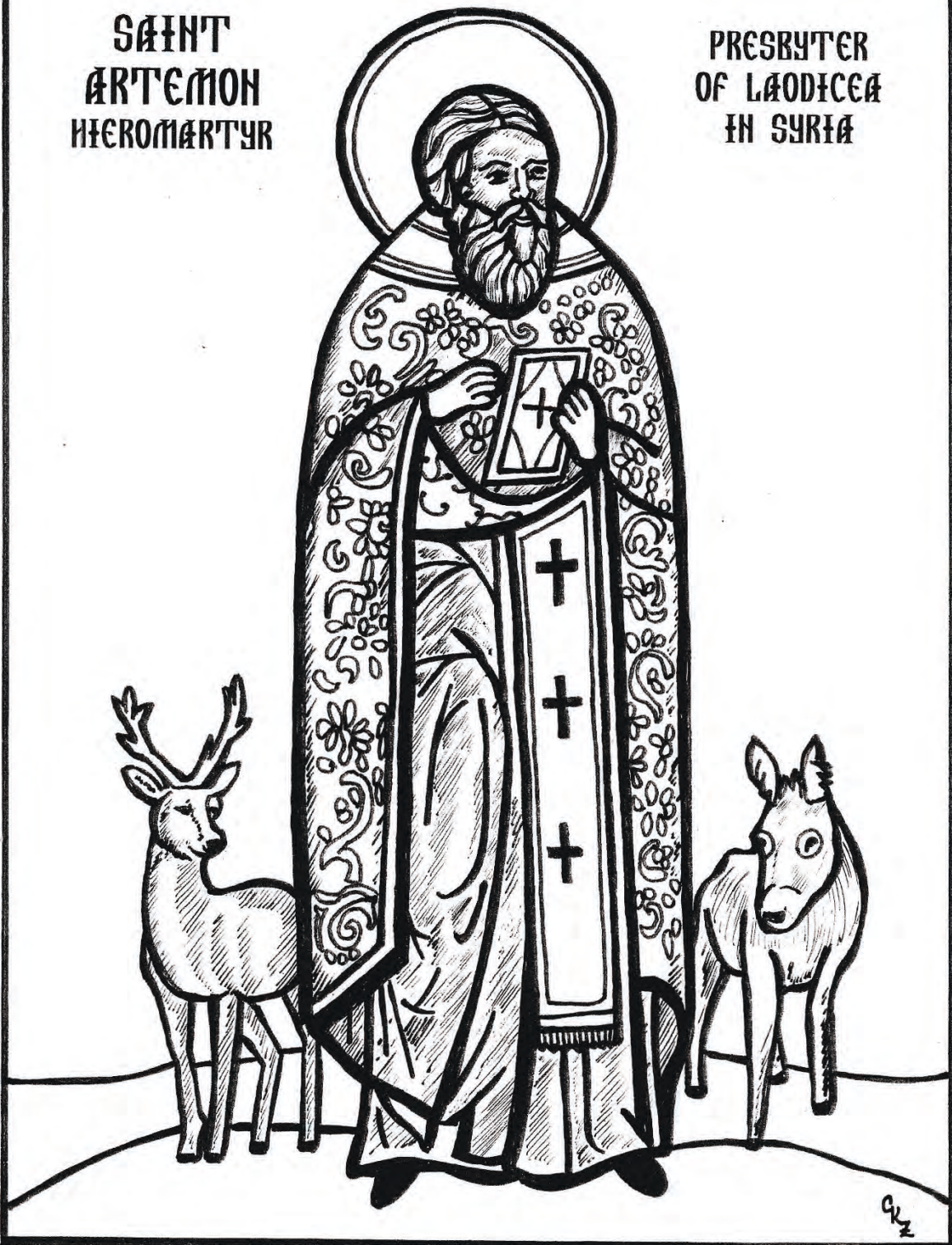
<sup>5</sup> Oleksa, Michael J., *Orthodox Alaska: A Theology of Mission*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood, NY, 1992.

<sup>6</sup> Bloom, *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *The Ascetical Homilies of Saint Isaac the Syrian, Homily Seventy Seven*, Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Boston, MA, 2001, p 536  
Finally, we are grateful as well for thoughts expressed in: Flanagan, Robert, "Human and Animals in the Kingdom", article first published in *Jacob's Well*, Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Orthodox Church in America, 1997.

**SÁINT  
ARTEMON  
HIEROMÁRTYR**

**PRESBYTER  
OF LAODICEA  
IN SYRIA**







# St. Artemon

Hieromartyr, Presbyter of Laodicea in Syria

Growing up in a Christian family in the city of Laodicea in Syria, Artemon spent many hours in church. He continued his service for decades, first as a **reader**, then a deacon and finally a priest. So when the Emperor Diocletian began a fierce persecution of Christians, Artemon was already an old man.

But he was still full of energy. When he and his bishop, Sisinius, heard that a military commander sent by the Emperor would soon be arriving in the city, they took action. They knew the commander intended to force people to worship the idols in the temple of the goddess **Artemis**, so they smashed and burned both the idols and the temple, so that people couldn't be compelled to worship there. Then they gathered all the Christians into a local church and urged them to be strong in faith and to resist the torture that was sure to come at the hands of the pagan commander, whose name was Patricius. The people were heartened by the words of Artemon and Bishop Sisinius, who was known as a saintly man who helped and healed many.

Artemon and Sisinius didn't try to hide the fact that they had destroyed the idols. Patricius had already come into Laodicea and had led a five-day celebration in honor of the pagan gods. Now he was coming to the temple of Artemis to offer sacrifice. He soon learned who had destroyed the temple, and sent a detachment of soldiers to the church where the Christians were gathered. But as he made his way to the temple, he suddenly felt terribly ill.

"*The Christians have put a curse on me, and their God is tormenting me!*" Patricius cried out. Terrified that he might die, he prayed to the pagan gods, especially Artemis. But nothing relieved his suffering. He was so weak that he could no longer sit up on his horse. He had to go into the nearest house along the way, and demanded a bed to lie down on. Finally he sent a messenger to Saint Sisinius, asking his help in exchange for gold.

The holy bishop was brought to Patricius' bedside and said, "*Keep your gold, but if you wish to be healed, believe in Jesus Christ.*" He prayed over the pagan commander, who declared that he did believe in Christ as true God, and soon regained his wellness and strength.

For a while, everything was calm and the Christians could worship in peace. But Patricius' declaration of faith in Jesus Christ had only been a way of escaping the severe illness that had so frightened him. Before long, he was again leading his soldiers on horseback, ready to arrest Christians and enforce the Emperor's **edict**.

Riding along one day, he saw an old man, followed by six wild donkeys and two deer who seemed to be his companions. Intrigued by this curious sight, Patricius asked the old man how it was possible that these wild beasts would follow him so meekly. The old man said, "*Everything and every creature in the world confesses the name of Christ, and with true faith in him all things are possible.*" Patricius was impressed by these words, but later when he found out that the old man was Artemon who had helped burn the temple, he gave orders for him to be arrested and taken to the city of Caesarea.

Artemon went willingly with the soldiers, but sent his animals to Bishop Sisinius. There, one of the donkeys received the gift of speech from God, and was able to tell Sisinius where Artemon was. The holy bishop made a small package of prosphora, and instructed a deacon to ride the donkey to Caesarea and take the package to Artemon with his blessing. At Caesarea, Patricius brought Artemon to trial in front of a pagan temple, and tried to make him worship the gods. Artemon refused, and called on Patricius to open the doors of the temple. In this particular temple there were many deadly snakes.



## Quote

Now you will see the power of the true God!

- Artemon's words to onlookers as he put venomous snakes to death

## Date Born

Laodicea (present day Latakia) in Syria in first half of third century

## Date Died

+303 in the place where he converted many to Christ

## Place Buried

unknown

## Commemoration Date

April 13



Seeing them, Artemon made the sign of the cross and commanded them all to come out. As they slithered out the temple door and across the pavement, Artemon raised his hands and called on Jesus Christ. The snakes all died at once. Just then, the donkey came up to Artemon. As if knowing that his master would soon be martyred, and wanting to comfort him, the animal lay down at his feet. The deacon offered him the package of blessed bread.

Patricius, seeing all these strange and miraculous things, was overcome with fear and hatred. He ordered his servants to prepare a huge cauldron of boiling tar for Artemon to be drowned in. The servants did as he ordered. When they told him the cauldron was ready, he rode up to it on his horse so he could peer in and make sure it was really boiling. But the heat and smell of the tar frightened the horse, and it reared, hurling Patricius into the cauldron.

Those standing nearby were horrified, but their horror turned to wonder when the soldiers, still obeying their orders, threw Artemon into the huge cauldron. Unlike Patricius, who had died at once, the saint came out of the cauldron unharmed. This wonderful event convinced many to become Christians that day, and Artemon baptized a number of people.

Artemon was set free, and was able to teach and baptize more people. But in the year 303, a band of pagans ambushed him on a road, and cut off his head. Just as he had once served Jesus Christ as a priest in the church, he now served as a martyred witness to the Lord who was also killed by faithless people, but rose from the dead to save all those who call on His name.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

Having partaken of the apostolic way of life,  
And becoming their successor to the throne,  
You have discovered in the practice of the virtues  
The way to divine contemplation.  
Therefore dispensing the word of truth,  
You have also suffered to the shedding of blood for the sake of the faith,  
O holy martyr Artemon, entreat Christ our God to save our souls.

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Made worthy of a sacred confession,  
And completing your life as a martyr,  
You were translated to heaven,  
Receiving from God an unfading crown.  
Therefore we celebrate your holy memory, calling out:  
Remember us, as you stand before Christ,  
O wise Hieromartyr Artemon.

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## Key Terms

**Reader** - a minor order in the Orthodox Church. Readers are given the privilege of reading Scripture (except for the Gospel, which is read by the priest) during worship services.

**Artemis** - the goddess of the moon, wild animals, and hunting, in Greek mythology. She is the equivalent of the goddess Diana in Roman mythology.

**Edict** - an official order given by someone in high authority, often a ruler





# Journal Prompts

**St. Artemon** ✙ Hieromartyr, Presbyter of Laodicea in Syria

1. Once he had been healed by Sisinius, Patricius "forgot" that he had said he believed in Jesus Christ, and persecuted Jesus' followers. In what ways do we sometimes "forget" our faith?

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2. God, in this story of Saint Artemon's life, makes a donkey able to speak. In the Old Testament, there is another story of a donkey with this ability. Why do you think God sometimes makes His non-speaking creatures able to speak with people?

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3. Our Church teaches us that all living beings will be raised when Christ returns at the Second Coming - everyone and everything from saints like Bishop Sisinius to the venomous snakes killed by Artemon. How does it affect your thinking, and your behavior, to know that all living things will be raised when Our Lord comes again?

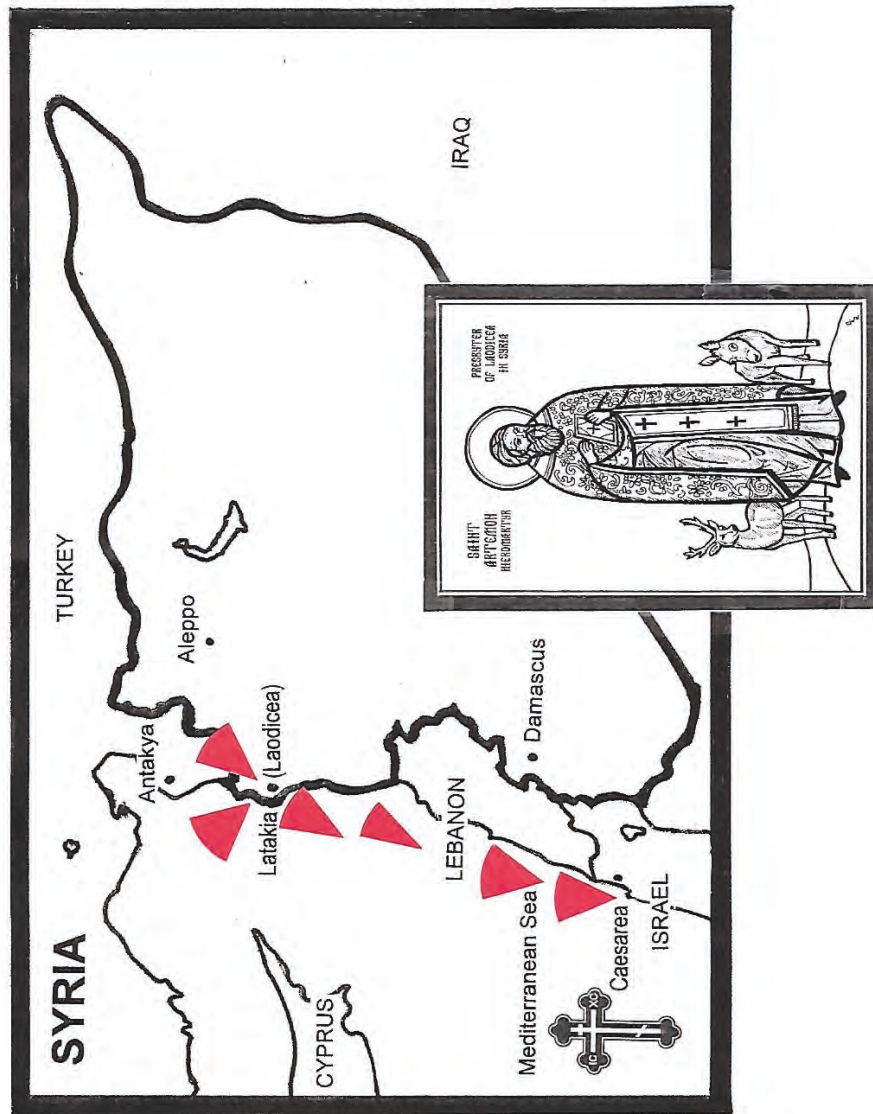
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. ARTEMON





# FALL INTO PLACE

St. Artemon of Laodicea in Syria

The letters in each vertical column go into the squares directly below them, but not necessarily in the order in which they appear. Black squares signal the end of a word. When all the correct squares are filled, the sentence, read horizontally, will reveal a quote by St. Artemon which can be found when you read the biography. Write the quote on the lines below the grid.

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

“ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_”

# FIND A WORD

St. Artemon of Laodicea in Syria

Find the words, from the list below, that are in the story of St. Artemon.  
The words are diagonal, backward, forward, vertical, and horizontal.

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

LAODICEA  
MARCH  
ARTEMIS

READER  
SAINT  
CHRISTIAN

CAESAREA  
PATRICIUS  
EDICT

ARTEMON  
SYRIA  
CONFESSOR

**SÆINT BRENDÆN**  
**VENERABLE GOD-BEARING FATHER NÆVIGATOR & VOYAGER**







# St. Brendan

Venerable, God-bearing Father, Navigator & Voyager of Clonfert

Some saints led lives of adventure and discovery. Such a man was Saint Brendan the **Navigator** or Voyager. One of his "friends" was actually a whale! Brendan was born around the year 484, in Ciarraighe Luachra, near the port of Tralee, which lies in the county of Kerry and province of Munster, in southwest Ireland. He was baptized by Saint Erc, who ordained him in 512. Young Brendan was educated by Saint Ita and later by Saint Erc, until his ordination. From 512-530, Fr. Brendan built monastery cells in Ardfert and near Mount Brandon in Shanakeel. It is said that during the same time period, Father Brendan, along with other monks and pilgrims, set out on voyages to the Scottish Islands, Wales, and possibly the Western Hemisphere.

There are several stories written about Fr. Brendan's travels. Some stories, known as **immrams**, tell of a seven-year voyage, while others tell of many voyages, or of a voyage lasting nine years. The young monk was said to have sailed west on the Atlantic Ocean in a skin-covered boat called a **curragh**, with fourteen to sixty passengers.

The pilgrims were looking for Paradise, or the Garden of Eden. They encountered strange sights as they visited many islands. Several stories tell of strange creatures. Others tell about a giant fish, or whale, which surrounded the ship and held its tail in its mouth. According to one story, the ship actually landed on the whale, thinking it was an island, and the pious Father Brendan celebrated the Paschal Liturgy right on the whale's back. This is why many engravings and statues depict Saint Brendan on a whale.

Other encounters included "mountains in the sea sprouting fire," crystal palaces, monsters with cat-like heads and horns, and little furry men. These were thought to be volcanoes, ice floes, walruses and native Eskimos. It is even said that when Saint Brendan preached on his boat, the fish of the sea gathered to listen!

Though these stories were orally passed down, then later written, many are thought to be legends. However, some historians in Canada have discovered Celtic inscriptions on large rocks and in cave dwellings in Newfoundland which lead to the conclusion that there were indeed Irish monks who may have reached the shores of North America long before the Vikings and Christopher Columbus. Stops along the way possibly included: Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Jan Mayen Island, the Antilles, the Azores, the Canaries, and Greenland.

It is also written that Saint Brendan and his crew found a lush island in their travels west, later called Saint Brendan's Island, and that Christopher Columbus looked for Saint Brendan's Isle when he sailed in search of the West Indies.

Before returning to Ireland, Saint Brendan traveled to Wales and Iona off the coast of Scotland. Back in Ireland, he founded a monastery as well as a convent for his sister Briga at Annaghdown. He also founded a monastic community at Inis-da-druim (now called Coney Island) in Killadysert, County Clare around 550. He traveled and continued to preach along the Irish coast, establishing churches at Inchiquin, County Galway and Inishglora, County Mayo. His most famous church was Clonfert Cathedral, which he established in 563.

As stories of his voyage spread, many people came to visit the famous traveling monk for spiritual guidance. Saint Brendan spent his last days at the monastery at Annaghdown, where he died around 577. He was buried at the Clonfert Cathedral. Always known as a voyager, Saint Brendan will be remembered for his adventurous spirit in seeking God and Paradise on earth. What an exciting life for a 6th century monk!



## Quote

[We pray for] the sixty who accompanied St. Brendan in his quest for the Land of Promise.

- St. Aengus, the Culdee, in his Litany, composed at the close of the 8th century

## Date Born

circa 484 at Ciarraighe Luachra near Tralee in County Kerry, Munster, Ireland

## Date Died

circa 577 in (Enachduin) now Annaghdown, County Galway, Connacht, Ireland

## Place Buried

in Clonfert Cathedral Monastery, County Galway

## Commemoration Date

May 16





## Troparion (Tone 4)

The Divine Likeness has been perfected in thee, O holy Father Brendan,  
For taking up the Cross thou hast followed Christ,  
And by thy deeds thou has taught us to disdain the flesh for it passes away,  
But to cultivate the soul for it is immortal:  
Wherefore, O holy father, thy spirit rejoices with the Angels.

## References

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## Key Terms

**Navigator** - one who uses tools to locate a destination, whether on land, sea, or in the air

**Curragh** - a long sailboat of about 36 feet, made of animal skin used for sea travel in the 6th century

**Immram** - Irish stories of sea adventures





# Journal Prompts

**St. Brendan** ✚ Venerable, God-bearing Father, Navigator & Voyager of Clonfert

1. Saint Brendan was a curious monk who wanted to explore and search for Paradise. Have you ever wanted to explore new places? Name a place you would like to visit, and explain why you would like to visit this special place.

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2. Saint Brendan traveled to many areas of Scotland, Wales and Ireland, spreading the Word of God to all who would hear his words. Describe what it would be like to talk to someone about Jesus Christ, especially someone who might not go to church or know about Him. What would you tell him or her? How would you explain about our Lord?

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3. Saint Brendan told many stories of his adventures, which were orally passed down, and later written. Keep a journal of a special trip or vacation. You can also describe your favorite family trip. Give details of your new experiences. What discoveries changed the way you look at the world? How did these experiences help you see God's creation?

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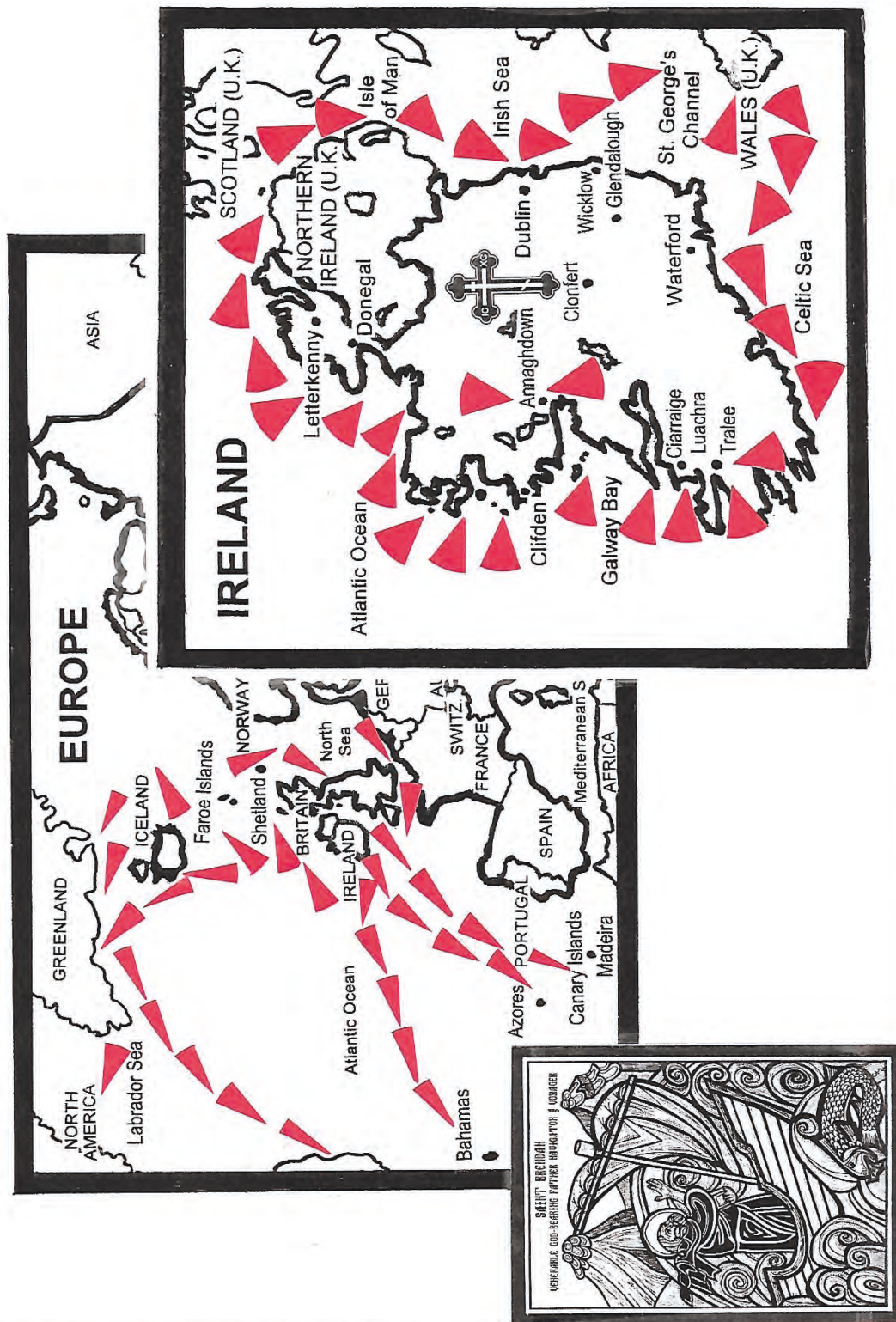
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. BRENDAN



# STRIKE OUT

Venerable, God-bearing Father, Navigator and Voyager,  
Brendan of Clonfert

1. *STRIKE OUT* the articles seen during the Divine Liturgy in Column A.
2. *STRIKE OUT* the Major Feast days of the Church in Column B.
3. *STRIKE OUT* the Books of the New Testament in Column C.
4. *STRIKE OUT* the Sacraments in Column D.
5. *STRIKE OUT* the Books of the Old Testament in Column E.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Cross	Ascension	One	Baptism	Exodus
2	Iconostas	Pentecost	Matthew	Of	Numbers
3	His	Nativity of Christ	Acts	Christmation	Leviticus
4	Chalice	Dormition	Mark	Ordination	Friends
5	Spoon	Was	John	Matrimony	Genesis
6	Prosphora	Annunciation	Actually	Confession	Judges
7	A	Elevation of the Cross	Luke	Whale	Ruth

Start in Row One and WRITE the words below which remain on the line and have not been crossed out.

You will have created a sentence about the Life of St. Brendan.

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# WOVEN TOGETHER

Venerable, God-bearing Father, Navigator and Voyager,  
Brendan of Clonfert

*Distribute the letters associated with each row, so they form places  
found in the biography of St. Brendan.*

- |           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1. LAHEN  | S _ A _ _ K _ E _         |
| 2. NICAL  | _ T _ A _ T _ _           |
| 3. GEARI  | C _ A _ R _ I _ H _       |
| 4. NONLE  | N _ W _ F _ U _ D _ A _ D |
| 5. TANSO  | _ C _ _ L _ _ D           |
| 6. SAINL  | _ _ T _ L _ E _           |
| 7. FORTC  | _ L _ N _ E _ _           |
| 8. NGERL  | _ _ E _ N _ A _ D         |
| 9. ASIAC  | _ _ N _ R _ E _           |
| 10. NICUI | _ N _ H _ Q _ I _         |

**SAINT ELIJAH**  
**HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET**







# St. Elijah

## Holy Glorious Prophet

The Old Testament prophet Elijah the Tishbite lived during the time when King Ahab ruled Israel. Ahab's wife Jezebel was a foreigner who did not worship the One True God of Israel, but the false god Baal. She persecuted prophets, and deceitfully tried to force the people of Israel to turn away from God and worship Baal. Elijah's fiery personality often brought him into conflict with Ahab and Jezebel, because he was absolutely determined that the people would stay faithful to God.

God rewarded Elijah's devotion with the gift of prophecy. Once, when Elijah knew a serious **drought** was coming soon, God instructed him to leave his home and go east of the Jordan River, promising that he would be fed by a **raven**. Just as God promised, the raven brought Elijah food, and he was able to drink from a stream. When the stream ran dry God told him to go to the city of Zarephath.

In the city he met a widow who was gathering sticks. He asked her for bread, but she replied, *"I have no bread baked, and there is only a small amount of flour and oil left for my son and me."* There was not enough, she said, to share with another person. Saint Elijah told her not to worry or be afraid but to make the bread and give him a little loaf. She did so, and a great miracle occurred. The widow had enough flour and oil to last a whole year! Sometime later, when her son died, Elijah prayed over his body and the boy came back to life. The widow was overjoyed and said to Elijah, *"Now I know that you speak God's word."*

After many years of drought, God sent Elijah to see King Ahab. By this time, there was famine as well as drought in the land. While searching for food and water, Ahab's advisor Obadiah met Elijah on the road. He told King Ahab that the prophet was back, and Ahab went out to meet him. He said to Elijah, *"Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"* Saint Elijah told King Ahab that he, the king, was the one who was troubling Israel because he was not living his life according to God's laws, and should not be following the false god Baal. Then he said to the king, *"Tell the people of Israel and the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal to meet me on Mount Carmel."*

When everyone had arrived, Saint Elijah told the people, *"If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is, then follow him."* He challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest. He told them to put their sacrifice on one altar and he would put his on another altar. Neither one would start a fire to burn their sacrifice, but would call on God and Baal to start the fire. The false prophets of Baal hopped around and yelled to their god to come and light the sacrifice. Saint Elijah laughed and said that maybe Baal was napping and needed to be awakened. The false prophets yelled even louder, and still nothing happened.

Elijah calmly made a large trench around his altar and poured water on top of it three times. He then prayed, and God sent down a fire that burned up the offering, the wood under the offering, the stones of the altar, the dirt and all the water. Saint Elijah had shown them all the true and only God!

When King Ahab told his wife Jezebel what Elijah had done, she angrily promised to kill the prophet. Fearing for his life, Elijah fled to Beer-sheba in the land of Judah. There, he sat down under a broom tree, so miserable and fearful that he asked God to take his life. Instead, God sent an angel to encourage him and to prepare him for a long journey.

Following the angel's instructions, he walked for forty days and forty nights until he came to a cave. There God spoke to him in a gentle breeze, telling him to bless helpers who would spread the true faith. One of those Elijah blessed was Elisha, who was plowing his father's field.



### Quote

I have been very zealous  
for the Lord Almighty...

- Elijah, about himself  
3 Kingdoms 19:10

### Date Born

Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe  
900 years before the Incarnation of  
Christ

### Date Died

Elijah's death is described in 2 Kings  
2: 9-13 (4 Kingdoms 2: 9-13 OSB).  
The date is not certain

### Place Buried

See above

### Commemoration Date

July 20 and the Sunday of the Holy  
Fathers (the Sunday before the  
Nativity of Christ)



When Saint Elijah saw him, he threw his cloak over him, and soon Elisha was accompanying Elijah as his helper. As Saint Elijah's earthly life neared its end, God sent him to Bethel, Jericho and the Jordan. When he came to the Jordan, Elijah rolled up his cloak and touched the water. The water immediately parted and Saints Elijah and Elisha crossed over on dry land. As they continued to walk, a **fiery** chariot driven by fiery horses came and took Saint Elijah in a whirlwind up into the sky. Elisha took up the great prophet's cloak.

Elijah's story doesn't end there. He was one of two Old Testament saints who appeared with Jesus at His Transfiguration. Saint Elijah was there to represent the Old Testament prophets who foretold the coming of the Son of God. He is a wonderful example of someone who loved God with all of his soul, all of his heart and all of his mind.

In some churches, on the feast of Saint Elijah, the priest blesses cars, bicycles, roller skates, scooters (chariots!) and any other method of transportation with wheels!

## Troparion (Tone 4)

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the prophets,  
The second forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
Glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha,  
To dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers.  
Therefore, he pours forth healings on those who honor him.

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Prophet Elijah of great renown,  
Seer of the mighty works of God,  
By your command you held back the rain!  
Pray for us to the only Lover of mankind!

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The Orthodox Study Bible

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## Key Terms

**Fiery** - easily excited or angered, like or suggestive of fire

**Raven** - one of the large birds of the crow family, having lustrous black plumage, a sharp pointed beak and a loud, harsh call

**Drought** - an extended period of dry weather, especially one that could harm crops







# Journal Prompts

**St. Elijah ✦ Holy Glorious Prophet**

1. Saint Elijah preached against worshipping false gods. False gods can also be idols. What kinds of idols do people in our society worship?

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2. Why do you think God spoke to Saint Elijah in a "gentle breeze" instead of something more awesome?

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3. Jezebel tried to lead people astray. Write about a time when someone tried to encourage you to do something you knew was wrong and how you made a positive choice.

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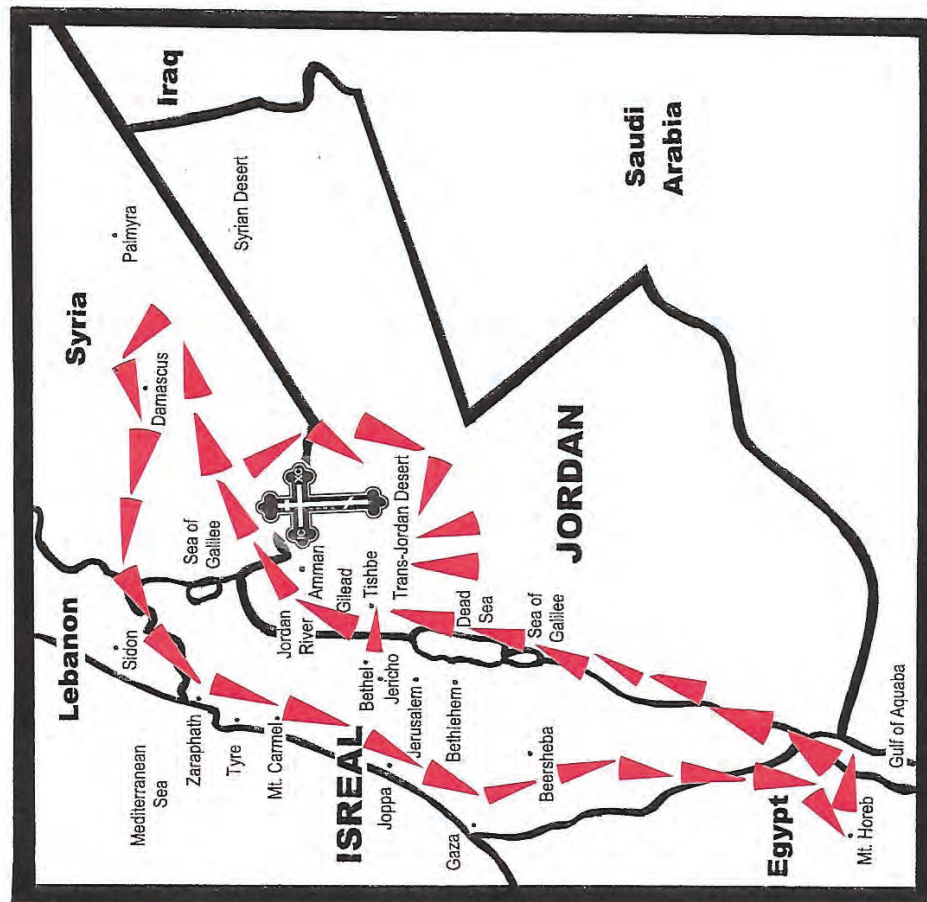
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. ELIJAH



# BREAK THE CODE

St. Elijah - Holy Glorious Prophet

*Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet.*

*Break the code, and reveal a fact about St. Elijah.*

*(HINT - W= 1; U=2; S=3; T=15; O=5; A=12)*

3 15 10 19 8 20 12 21 1 12 3

5 18 10 5 22 15 1 5

5 19 23 15 10 3 15 12 6 10 18 15

3 12 8 18 15 3 1 21 5

12 17 17 10 12 16 10 23 1 8 15 21

20 10 3 2 3 12 15 21 8 3

15 16 12 18 3 22 8 9 2 16 12 15 8 5 18

# SCRAMBLED UP

St. Elijah - Holy Glorious Prophet

*The list below contains scrambled words that can be found in the biography of St. Elijah. Unscramble the words to find them.*

1. THERAZAPH

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2. JELIHA

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3. BINGHAKA

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4. LEJEEZB

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5. TRODHUG

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6. ASHELI

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7. RIFYE

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8. ABLA

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9. DAJHU

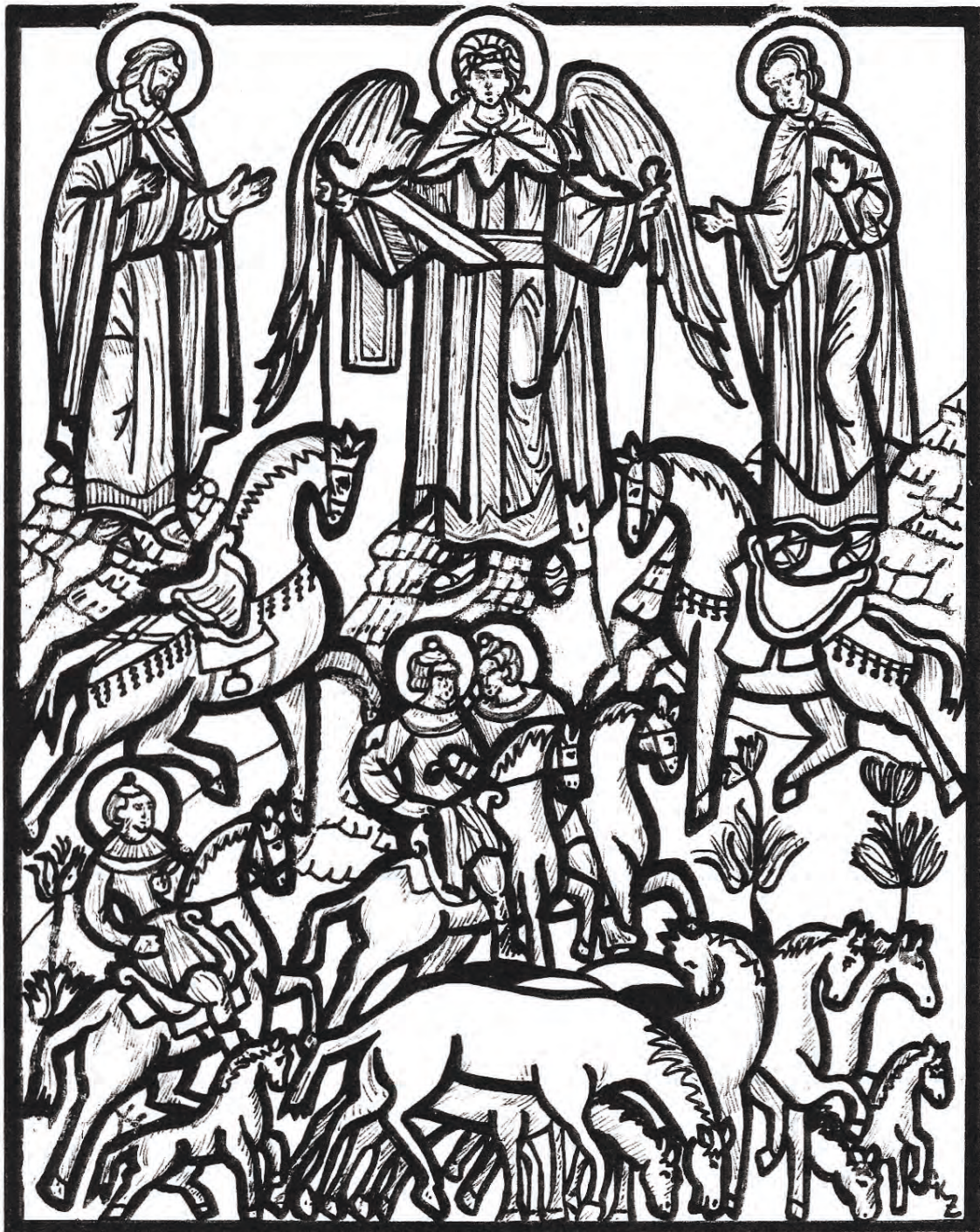
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10. VANER

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SAINT FLORUS & SAINT LAURUS  
MARTYRS OF ILLYRIA







# St. Florus & St. Laurus

## Holy Martyrs of Illyria

Saints Florus and Laurus were two brothers who lived and died for Christ. They were born in the second century in the Byzantine capital of Constantinople, and worked as **stonemasons**. They were the apprentices of two men named Proklos and Maximos. These two men were known as some of the best stonemasons in the imperial capital, and also as very intelligent men. They chose only special people to work with them. When they chose Florus and Laurus, they taught the brothers not only their craft, but also their love of Jesus Christ.

Sometime after the brothers had learned their special craft, their teachers Proklos and Maximos were killed by people who hated our Lord and His followers. Florus and Laurus escaped Constantinople and traveled to Illyria in search of safety and work. They soon found a job with the local prefect, a **pagan** whose name was Likaion. He wanted the brothers to build a stone temple in honor of Licinius, the son of Empress Elpidia.

Being Christians, Florus and Laurus agreed to work on the building, but did not carve any of the pagan idols and statues that would be set up in the temple. They also used the money earned to take care of the poor people in the town. While the temple was under construction, the son of the local pagan priest came to see what progress was being made. A stone accidentally hit the boy, knocking him out and injuring him seriously. His father Mamertin, the pagan priest, was devastated, but Florus and Laurus assured him that his son would be healed if only he would believe in Jesus Christ.

Florus and Laurus woke the boy, and when they made the sign of the Cross over his injured eye, he was immediately healed. His father Mamertin saw this wonderful miracle and became a Christian.

When the temple was finally completed, Florus and Laurus called all of the Christians together and removed the pagan idols and statues that had been put inside. In their place, on the east side of the temple, the Christians set up a holy cross, and the pagan temple was transformed into a Christian church. All night long, Florus and Laurus, along with Mamertin, his son and about 300 other followers of Christ, prayed fervently in the church. A heavenly light kept the dark gloom of night away and brought joy to the Christians.

When the local prefect heard of the transformation of the pagan temple into a church, and the destruction of the pagan idols, he became very angry and ordered that everyone who took part be killed. Mamertin, his son, and the other 300 Christians were thrown into a fire. Likaion ordered his men to tie up Florus and Laurus and drag them behind a chariot until they were severely injured. He then had them thrown down a well, and filled the well with dirt.

Earlier in their life, the brothers had experienced something wonderful concerning their horses. Having lost the horses one day, they prayed to the Archangel Michael to help them find their steeds. They soon found them, and after that they had a great fondness for horses. Many years after their deaths, the people living near the area where the brothers were killed noticed horses always drinking in a particular spot. A spring was uncovered and the bodies of the two brothers were found. They were incorrupt. The relics were taken to the Pantokrator monastery in Constantinople, and the saints' feast day is celebrated each year on August 18th. On the same day, the Church commemorates three other **martyrs**, Elashippus, Speushippus and Melashippus, who were brothers and who became horse doctors after learning their craft from Saints Florus and Laurus.



### Quote

The stone the builders rejected,  
the same became the head of the corner.

- Psalm 117 (118):22

### Date Born

2nd century at Byzantium (Constantinople)

### Date Died

unknown

### Place Buried

in the Pantokrator Monastery in  
Constantinople

### Commemoration Date

August 18



In Russia, Saints Florus and Laurus are considered to be the patron saints of horses. In some villages on the day of the Saints' feast, the horses would be driven to a pond or river after Divine Liturgy and bathed. They were also given the day off from work! The brother martyr-saints are often pictured in icons along with Archangel Michael, watching over beautiful horses.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

Let us praise as is meet, O you faithful,  
The most comely, radiant and divinely wise martyrs:  
Most blessed Florus and all venerable Laurus,  
Who proclaimed to all the uncreated Trinity.  
Suffering unto bloodshed,  
They were adorned with brilliant crowns.  
Entreat Christ our God to save our souls.

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Today all the world honors in glory the divinely wise Florus and Laurus,  
As pious martyrs who suffered for Christ.  
Through their prayers may we receive grace and mercy  
And be delivered from calamity and temptation,  
And from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment.

## References

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<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/martyr>

<http://www.mmartltd.com/galleryimage.php?iid=303>

## Key Terms

**Stonemason** - a person who builds with stone

**Pagan** - a worshiper of false gods

**Martyr** - a person who suffers or dies because he/she is a witness for Christ





# Journal Prompts

**St. Florus & St. Laurus ✚ Holy Martyrs of Illyria**

1. Mamertin, the pagan priest, felt great grief when his son was hurt. He was not a friend to Florus and Laurus at first, but they prayed for his son and he was cured. Describe a time when you did something good for someone who was not a friend to you, or did not like you.

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2. Florus and Laurus escaped to Constantinople and traveled to Illyria in search of safety and work after their teachers were killed for being Christians. Have you ever been made fun of because you are a Christian or because you go to church?

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3. Florus and Laurus made a pagan temple into a Christian church by putting a cross in it. What makes a building a church?

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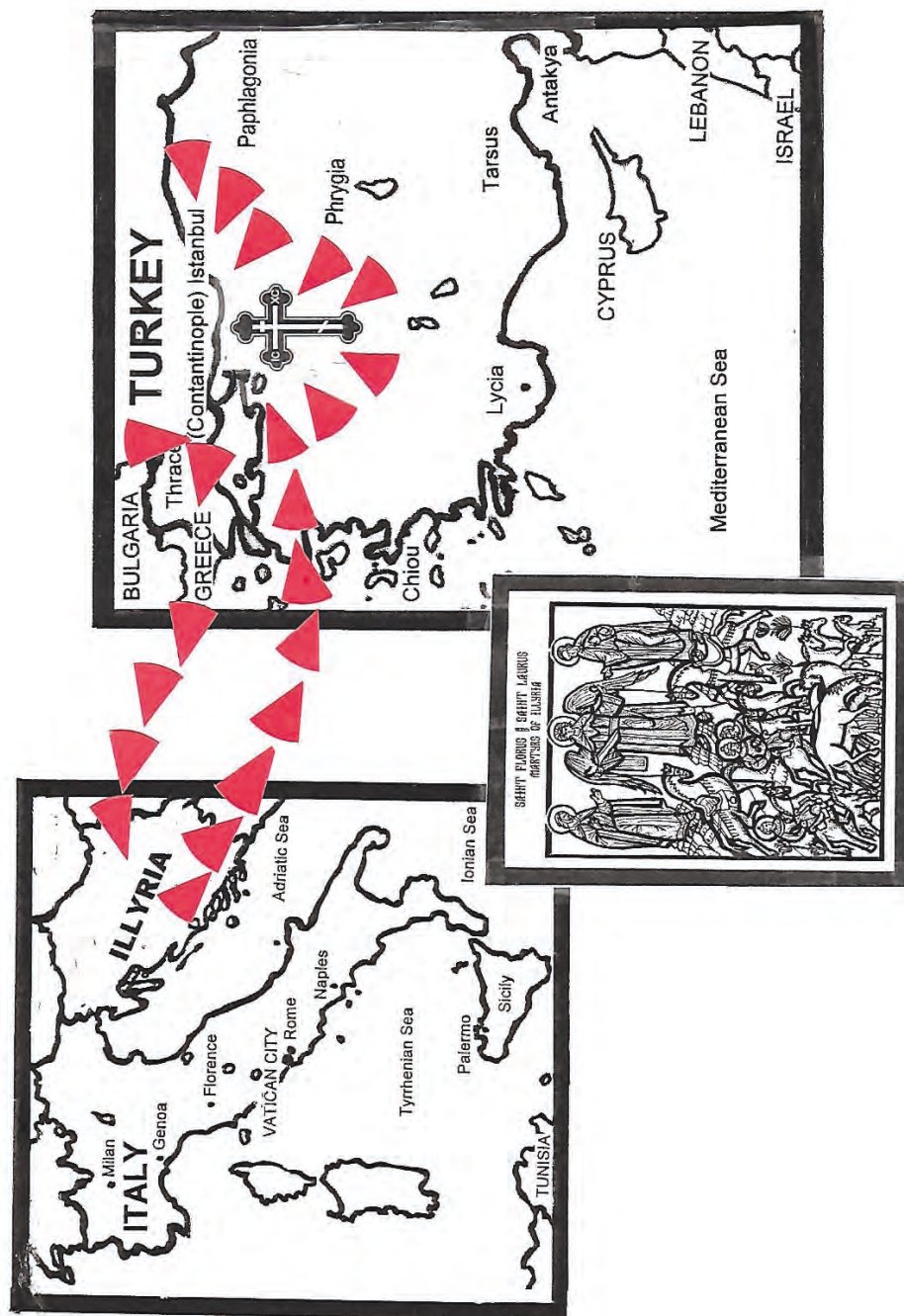
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. FLORUS and ST. LAURUS



# BACKWARDS PUZZLE

Saints Florus and Laurus - Martyrs of Illyria, Stonemasons

*Each word below is written backwards. Write the letters in each word from right to left and reveal four facts about the lives of St. Florus and St. Laurus.*

1. nI aissuR, stniaS suroIF dna suruaL era deredisnoc

ot eb eht nortap stnias fo sesroh.

2. stniaS suroIF dna suruaL erew owt srehtorb ohw

devil dna deid rof tsirhC.

3. yehT dekrow sa snosamenots.

4. yehT erew nrob ni eht dnoces yrutnec ni elponitnatsnoC.

# FIND A WORD

Saints Florus and Laurus - Martyrs of Illyria, Stonemasons

*Find the words, from the list, that are in the story of St. Florus and Laurus. They are diagonal, backward, forward, vertical, and horizontal.*

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

**MARTYR  
LAURUS  
MAMERTIN**

**PAGAN  
HORSES  
RUSSIA**

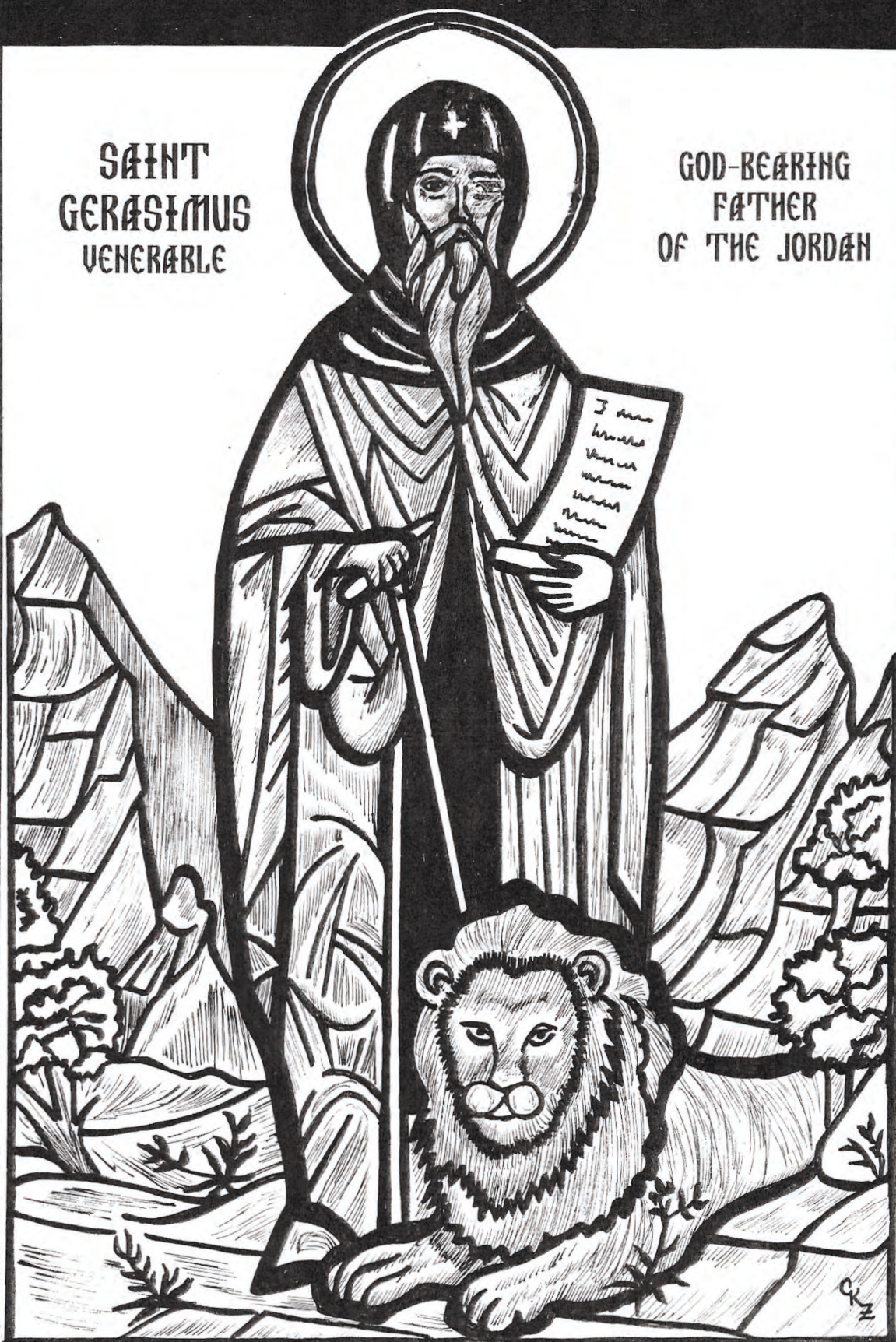
**PANKOKRATOR  
BYZANTIUM  
SAINTS**

**FLORUS  
LICINIUS  
ANIMALS**



SAINT  
GERASIMUS  
VENERABLE

GOD-BEARING  
FATHER  
OF THE JORDAN







# St. Gerasimus

## Venerable and God-bearing Father of the Jordan

Saint Gerasimus was born in Lycia (Anatolia, Turkey) in the fifth century. Even as a child he lived as a Christian, doing as he thought God would want him to. Because of his love for fasting, vigil and prayer, he was blessed by God with heavenly gifts. He healed the physical sickness and the souls of those who came to him with faith. A special gift was his loving authority over wild beasts.

After becoming a monk in the Egyptian Desert Thebaid, Saint Gerasimus founded a **monastic community** of seventy men in the desert east of Jericho, not far from the river Jordan - the river in which St. John the Baptist baptized Jesus. The monks of his monastery lived a very simple life. They slept on reed mats, had **cells** with no doors (so they did not have the luxury of privacy) and kept silence. They drank only water, and ate dates and bread.

Saint Gerasimus taught the monks to live a holy life, and also to work by making baskets. Their prayerful life helped the monks to help others.

One day Saint Gerasimus was taking a walk along the Jordan when he heard a loud roar and saw a lion in great pain because of a large splinter in its paw. Saint Gerasimus felt very sorry for the lion. Crossing himself, he went cautiously over to the animal, took its huge paw gently in his hand, and removed the splinter. The lion did not return to its cave but meekly followed Saint Gerasimus back to the monastery. A loving and trusting relationship grew between them. The other monks were amazed by the lion's acceptance of a peaceful life and a diet of bread and vegetables, and by the animal's devotion to Saint Gerasimus, who was now the abbot of the monastery.

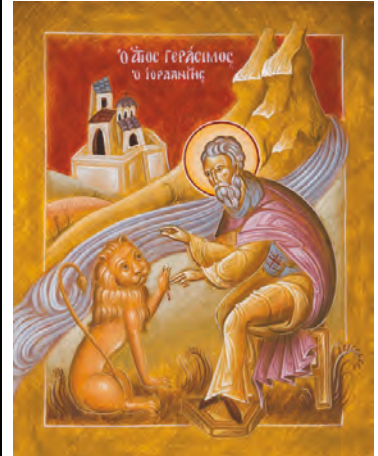
The abbot gave the lion a duty. Each time the community's donkey went to pasture by the Jordan, the lion went along and guarded it. The donkey was assigned to bring back water to the monastery. One day while the lion was sleeping, the donkey was stolen by a passing trader. The lion, with its head hanging low, returned to the monastery alone. The brothers decided that the lion had failed in keeping its monastery diet, and had eaten the donkey. As punishment the lion had to take over the donkey's duty, and was required to go to the Jordan and carry back water from the river to the monastery in a saddlepack with four earthen jars.

Time passed, until one day the trader came to the place where he'd stolen the donkey. The lion recognized the donkey following behind the trader, and let out a loud roar that scared the thief away. Then the lion took the donkey as well as some camels tied together with it back to Saint Gerasimus' cell. Knocking on the wall of the cell with its tail, the lion presented the donkey and camels.

The monks realized they had misjudged the lion, and as a way of acknowledging the lion's honesty and willingness to do the humble work of carrying water, Saint Gerasimus gave the animal a special name: Jordanes.

Saint Gerasimus continued as abbot of the monastery. He also attended the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon in 451. There, with Saint Euthymius, he was a champion of the Orthodox faith and defended it against the Monophysite heresy.

In the years that followed, Jordanes stayed in the wilderness, coming once a week to bow before Saint Gerasimus as a sign of obedience and devotion. One day, Jordanes came as usual but could not find the monk. A loud roar came forth from the animal's throat—a roar of what seemed to be anger and grief. The monks sadly led Jordanes to the newly-departed saint's grave. Letting out a final roar of grief at losing Gerasimus, the lion lay down and died. The year was 475.



### Quote

Divinely Blessed one, You submitted to the command of God who beholds everything, Receiving grace from Him to work miracles: You drove away evil spirits and tamed wild beasts by the purity of your mind! Therefore we honor you and fittingly celebrate your Godly memory with faith!

- Vespers, Lord I call verses - Tone 8

### Date Born

Province of Lycia, the southern part of Asia Minor, in the fifth century

### Date Died

475

### Place Buried

St. Gerasimus Monastery approx. 25 miles from Jerusalem

### Commemoration Date

March 4



The monastery founded by Saint Gerasimus still exists on the southern side of the Jordan valley and contains many icons depicting his holy life.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

O dweller of the desert and angel in the body,  
You were shown to be a wonderworker, our God-bearing Father Gerasimus.  
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer:  
Healing the sick and the souls drawn to you by faith.  
Glory to Him who gave you strength!  
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!  
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Father, you burned with heavenly love,  
Preferring the harshness of the Jordan desert to all the delights of the world.  
Therefore, a wild beast served you until your death;  
He died in obedience and grief on your grave.  
Thus God has glorified you,  
And when you pray to Him remember us, Father Gerasimus.

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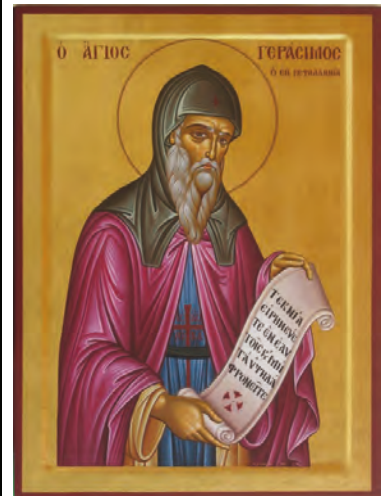
## Key Terms

**Monophysite Heresy** - the wrong teaching that the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ are one, rather than being two that are fully united but not mingled, as the Orthodox Church teaches

**Monastic Community** - a group of monks who live together in a monastery and are dedicated to a life of prayer, meditation and good works

**God-bearing** - having God's Holy Spirit in you so that your life and actions are guided by the Spirit. Mary the Theotokos is sometimes called the God-bearer, which means that she gave birth to God's Son. She is the only person given this title.

**Cell** - a small room where a monk lives





# Journal Prompts

**St. Gerasimus** ✚ Venerable and God-bearing Father of the Jordan

1. When Gerasimus heard and saw the suffering lion he had compassion. Why do you think he was willing to approach a dangerous animal? What did he do before going toward the lion? What does his action tell us?

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2. When the lion returned to the monastery without the donkey, the monks jumped to the conclusion that he had eaten it. Have you ever been in a situation where someone thought you did something wrong that you did not do? How did you handle the situation? Was there some other way you might have handled it? What does the lion's reaction "teach" us about handling such a situation?

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3. Why did God bless Gerasimus with grace to work miracles? Do you think we can seek God's grace to be helpful to animals and humans in difficult situations? Do you want that gift? Can you think of a time when you had an opportunity like the one Gerasimus had?

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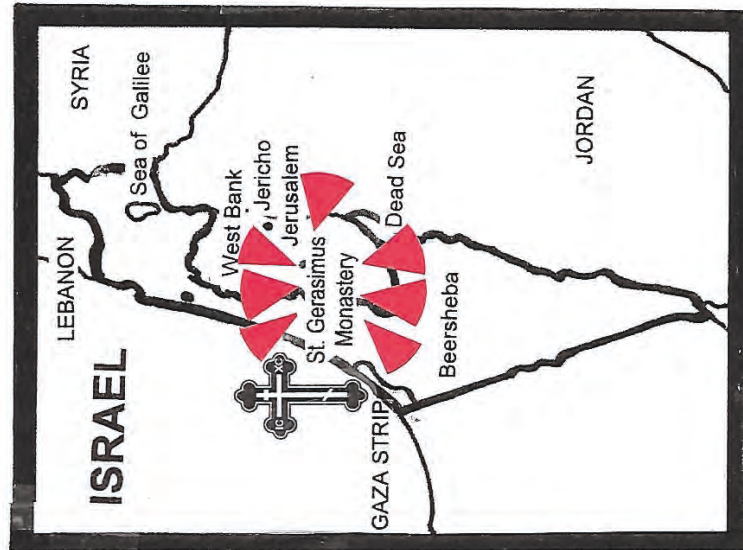
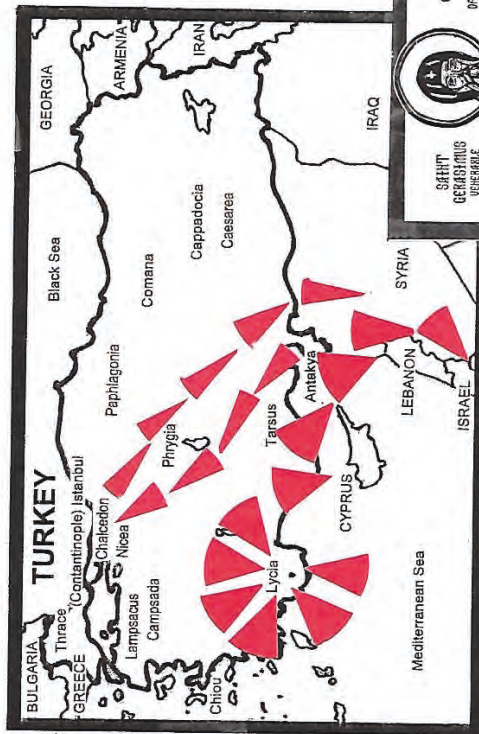
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. GERASIMUS





# CRAZY CONSONANTS

St. Gerasimus - Venerable God-bearing Father of the Jordan

*Unscramble the consonants and write them on the lines to reveal words associated with the life of St. Gerasimus. A hint is given for each one. Write the words on the lines below.*

1. \_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ y (n t s r m) - place of his burial.
2. \_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ e a \_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (d G g n r b)  
- having God's spirit in you, so you are guided by the Spirit.
3. \_\_\_\_ u \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ (yT k r) - home of St. Gerasimus
4. \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (l c l) - place where a monk lives
5. \_\_\_\_ i o \_\_\_\_ (n l) - had a splinter in its paw.
6. \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_ (d c l C h n)  
- location of the Fourth Ecumenical Council
7. \_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ e y (n d k y) - carried water to the monastery
8. \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (t k b s s) - made by the monks
9. \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (c r M h) - month of his commemoration
10. \_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ u \_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_ y  
(c n m s t t m c n m) - a group of monks living together in a monastery.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

# STRIKE OUT

St. Gerasimus - Venerable God-bearing Father of the Jordan

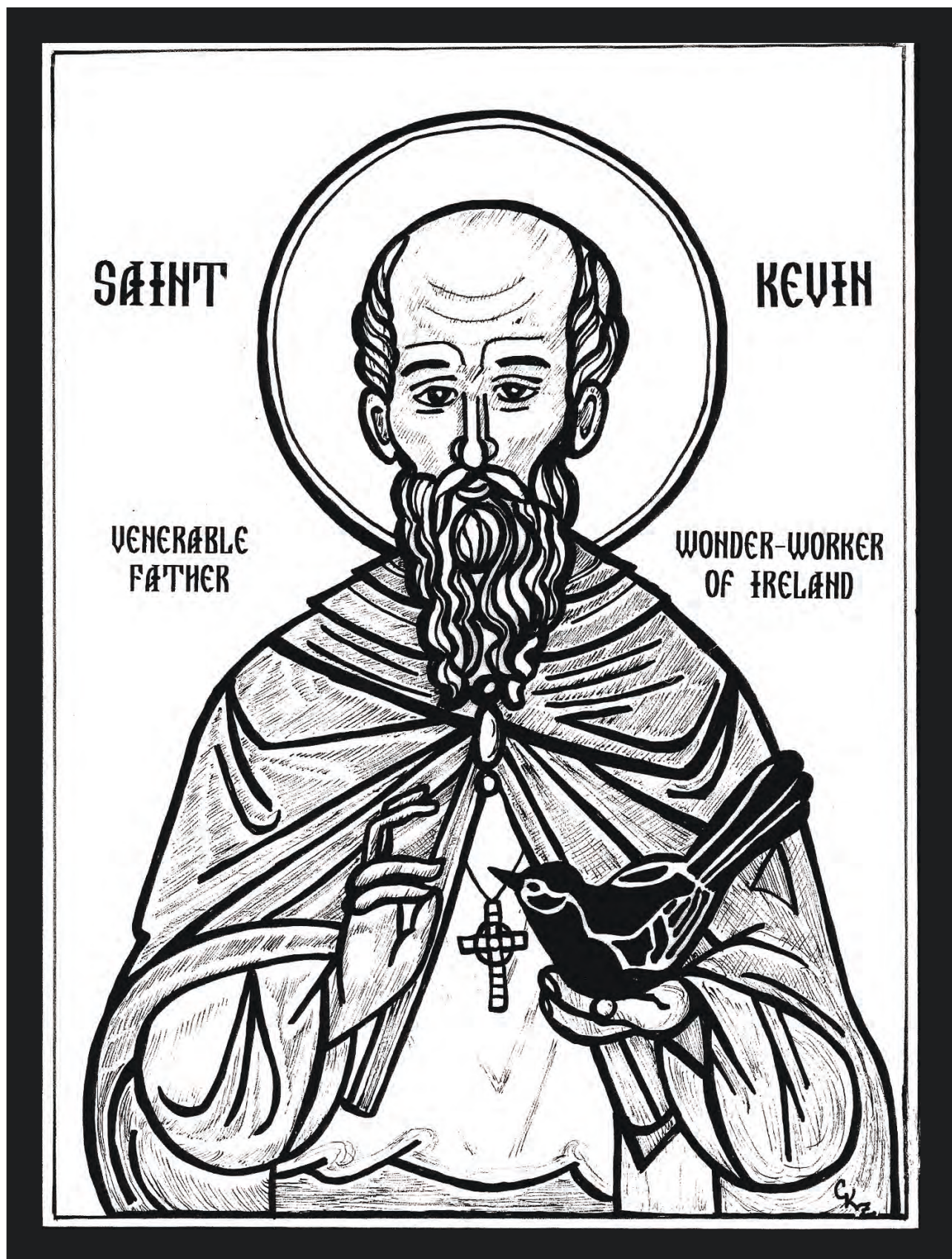
1. Place an X through all of the people associated with a monastery.
2. Place an X through all church ranks of men who are ordained or consecrated.
3. Place an X through all of the services offered in the church.

*When you are finished, you will reveal a statement that was very important in the life of St. Gerasimus. Write the sentence on the lines below the puzzle.*

Divine Liturgy	Jordanes	patriarch	abbot	was
deacon	the	monk	special	priest
name	hieromonk	given	Matins	to
bishop	the	Vespers	lion	novice
that	Parastas	lived	monk	nun
at	metropolitan	the	Hours	monastery.

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# St. Kevin

## Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland

In 498, in the Irish province of Leinster, a baby boy was born to noble Christian parents. The baby was baptized Kevin, or Coemgen in the Irish language. The name means "he of blessed birth." This child was the first person in history to be called Kevin.

As a young boy Kevin had a bad temper and was not liked by the other children. In fact, they stayed away from him so they would not be hit by the stones he threw at them. He called other children terrible names.

But birds and animals loved Kevin and he loved them. The creatures trusted him, knowing that he would take care of them and never harm them. They came when he called them, and stayed near him for hours at a time.

It was a custom during the years of Kevin's childhood for parents to send their children to monasteries where they could learn reading, writing, and their Christian faith. So when Kevin was seven years old his parents sent him to Saint Petroe in Cornwall Monastery. But Kevin continued to have trouble getting along with others, and the monks had little success in getting the boy to be a better companion. Finally, one Great Lent, they decided that he should spend the forty-day period alone with God.

On the first day of Lent, as Kevin was kneeling and praying with his arms outstretched, a blackbird landed on his hand and began to build a nest. Kevin remained motionless and very quiet, not wanting to frighten the bird. He continued like this for the entire Lent, praying constantly. The blackbird fed him with nuts and berries. As Lent ended, the last baby bird in the nest flew away and Kevin returned to the monastery for Pascha. His prayers had shown him that he must be kind to people as well as animals.

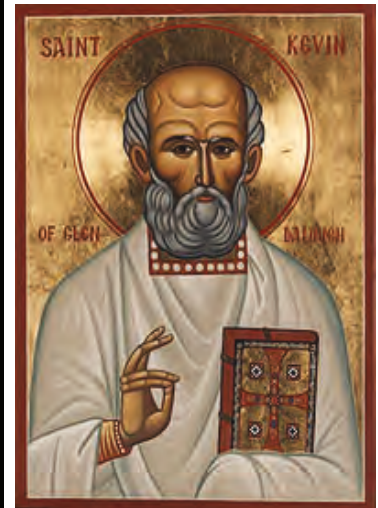
Kevin was ordained to the priesthood and spent seven years as a **hermit**. One day a farmer named Dima, who lived near Kevin's cave, followed one of his cows when it went out to pasture. He did this because this cow gave far more milk than any of his others, and he hoped to find out why.

The farmer made an amazing discovery. He watched as the cow went to Kevin's cave, where the hermit monk was praying, and began gently licking his clothing and feet. The farmer was so struck by what he saw, especially when he found out that his cow had been doing this every day, that he asked Kevin to teach him about Jesus Christ. Then Dima begged the monk to come to his home to teach all of his family about Christ and the Gospel, and show them how to pray. Soon, other families heard about Kevin's teaching and also wanted to learn about Christ.

Kevin planned to build a monastery where monks could teach everyone – the young, the old, the rich, the poor, Christians, and **pagans**. However, King O'Tool of Glendalough would not permit it. King O'Tool was a pagan and did not believe in Christ.

The king had a pet goose of which he was very fond. The goose was old and weak. When the king heard of Kevin's miracles, he asked him to make the goose young again. Kevin agreed, and requested a very specific payment: he wanted to be given the land in the Valley of Glendalough over which the goose liked to fly. He did restore the goose's energy and youth, and was given the large piece of land.

The farmers of the area were glad to help Kevin, and worked very hard over many hours and many days to help build the monastery in the Valley of Glendalough. Sometimes they could look up and see the goose flying overhead.



### Quote

Kevin or Coemgen in the Irish tongue, which means 'He of Blessed Birth'

- Kevin of Glendalough

### Date Born

498 in the Irish Province of Leinster

### Date Died

June 618 at the age of 120 years

### Place Buried

unknown

### Commemoration Date

June 3





Kevin encouraged everyone to come and learn about Christ. He became the **abbot** of the monastery he'd built.

Saint Kevin was a great worker of miracles, and many of them involved the birds and animals he loved. He taught in the monastery until his peaceful death in 618, at the age of 120. We celebrate Saint Kevin's memory on June 3.

## Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou wast privileged to live in the age of saints, O Father Kevin,  
Being baptized by one saint, taught by another, and buried by a third.  
Pray to God that he will raise up saints in our day  
To help, support, and guide us in the way of salvation.

## Kontakion (Tone 8)

Forsaking thy noble inheritance,  
and shunning all the crooked ways of this sin-loving world,  
Thou didst apply thine obedient feet to the straight and narrow path of Christ,  
Eagerly hastening throughout thy life toward the heavenly Zion,  
Where with all the saints and the bodiless hosts thou criest aloud in ecstasy:  
Let every breath praise the Lord!

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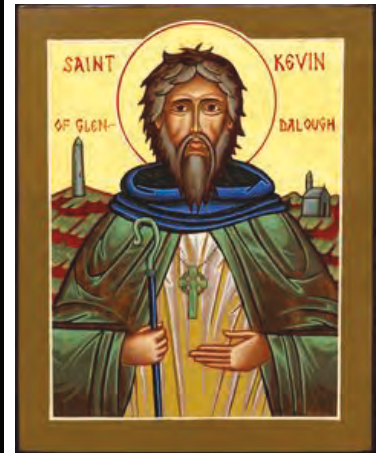
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## Key Terms

**Hermit** - a person who lives alone and away from others, sometimes a monastic

**Pagans** - those who do not believe in Christ and often worship multiple gods

**Abbot** - a monk who heads or is in charge of a monastery





# Journal Prompts

**St. Kevin** ✦ Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland

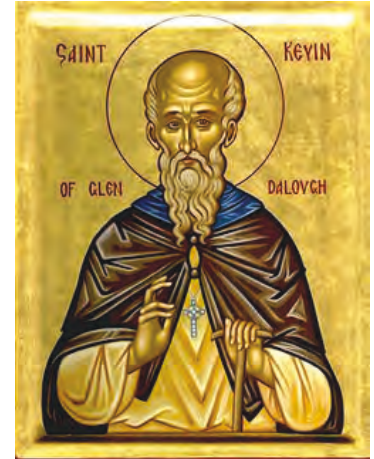
1. Saint Kevin prayed morning and night while he was alone with God. What things can we do when we have a good deal of time alone? Do you think having time alone can help us to pray?

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2. Early in life Kevin was not kind to other children. What do you do if you meet a person who treats others badly? What do you think is the best thing to do?

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3. Saint Kevin wanted to teach pagans - those who didn't know about Christ, or worshipped false gods - about Christ. What three things would you teach pagans about Christ?

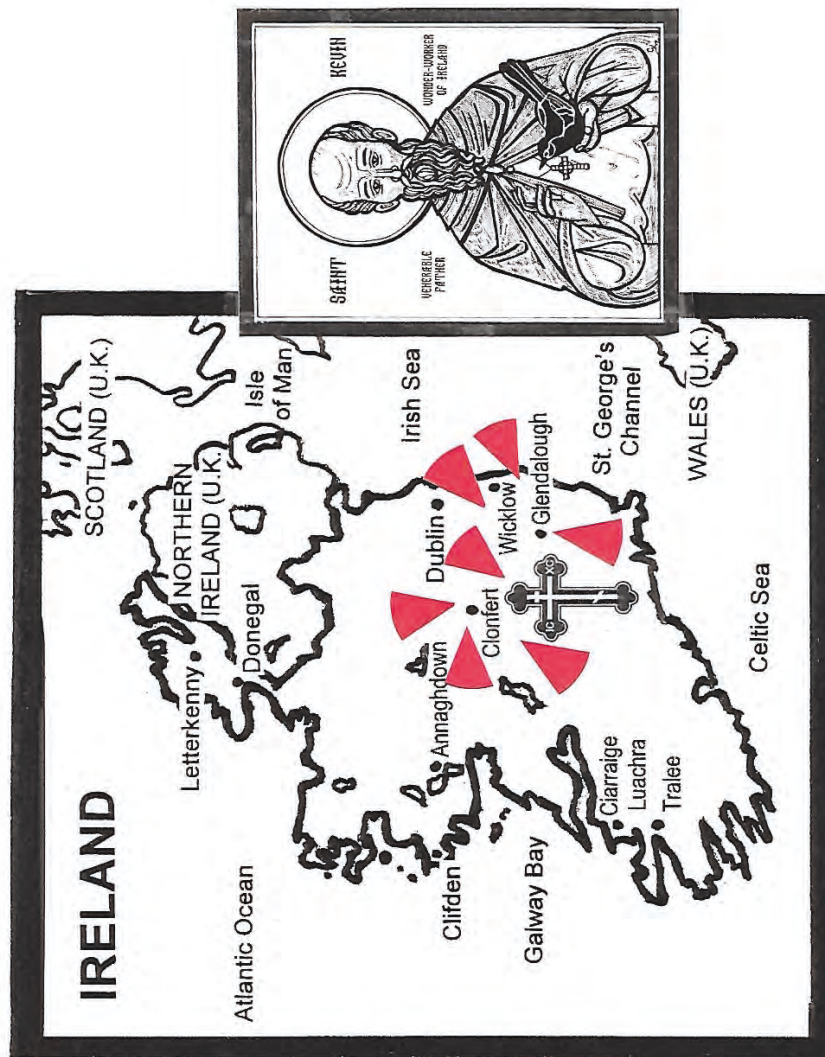
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. KEVIN





# GRIDLOCK

St. Kevin - Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland

*For this puzzle, fill in the blank spaces by finding the correct letters in the grid. To help get you started, the first letter is given.*

*When you finish, you will reveal a fact about the life of St. Kevin.*

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>A</u>	W	I	B	E	T	Y
<u>B</u>	M	H	D	K	A	N
<u>C</u>	S	O	F	V	.	R

H     \_\_\_\_\_  
B2     A4     \_\_\_\_\_  
A1     B5     C1     \_\_\_\_\_  
A5     B2     A4

\_\_\_\_\_  
C3     A2     C6     C1     A5     \_\_\_\_\_  
C2     B6     A4

\_\_\_\_\_  
A2     B6     \_\_\_\_\_  
B2     A2     C1     A5     C2     C6     A6

\_\_\_\_\_  
A5     C2     \_\_\_\_\_  
A3     A4     \_\_\_\_\_  
B6     B5     B1     A4     B3

\_\_\_\_\_  
B4     A4     C4     A2     B6     \_\_\_\_\_  
C5

# UNSCRAMBLE IT

St. Kevin - Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland

*Unscramble the missing word in each sentence to reveal a statement about St. Kevin. Write the word on the line.*

1. St. Kevin was born in the Province of \_\_\_\_\_. (telsiner)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the name for Kevin in the Irish language. (moceneg)
3. When he was seven, his parents sent him to a \_\_\_\_\_ to learn the Christian Faith. (yeamrastno)
4. His parents were noble \_\_\_\_\_. (saintrisCh)
5. St. Kevin was a great worker of \_\_\_\_\_. (simclear)
6. During Great Lent, a \_\_\_\_\_ fed him nuts and berries. (ridcalbkb)
7. Kevin spent seven years as a \_\_\_\_\_. (timerh)
8. We celebrate St. Kevin's memory on \_\_\_\_\_ 3. (neJu)
9. He is a wonder worker in the country of \_\_\_\_\_. (direnal)
10. At a monastery in the Valley of \_\_\_\_\_, Kevin became the abbot.  
(goalneldhug)
11. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone that often worships multiple gods. (nagap)
12. If you are in charge of a men's monastery, you are an \_\_\_\_\_. (babto)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ asked Kevin to teach him about Jesus Christ. (madi)
14. Many of Kevin's miracles involved birds and \_\_\_\_\_. (minalsa)

**SAINT MAMAS**  
**HOLY GREAT MARTYR OF CAESAREA**  
**IN CAPPADOCIA**







# St. Mamas

Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia

The life of Saint Mamas began in an atmosphere of sadness, but at the same time one of great courage and unshakable faith. His devout parents Theodotus and Rufina were thrown into prison because of their faith, like many Christians of the time. But it was especially hard for them because Rufina was pregnant, and Theodotus knew that his physical weakness might make it impossible for him to stand up under torture. Yet they refused to avoid imprisonment by **renouncing** Jesus Christ.

Theodotus soon died, without ever seeing his baby son, who was born prematurely in the prison cell. Rufina was so ill after the delivery that she knew she too would die before long. She gave her baby into God's keeping, asking Him to defend the orphaned newborn.

A wealthy Christian widow named Ammia saw to it that the two parents were buried decently, and then took the baby home, grateful for the chance to give him a good life after such a difficult start. She raised him to be a faithful believer, and also made sure that he got an excellent education, having observed that he had a good mind, unusual maturity, and the ability to learn quickly.

But young Mamas would soon face **persecution** much like the kind his parents had undergone. He openly talked about Jesus Christ with his school friends, many of whom were pagans. Because he was so **articulate**, and spoke with such sincerity and loving concern, he convinced several of them to become Christians. The news of his actions soon reached the local governor, who was not at all pleased.

The governor arrested Mamas, but was reluctant to punish him harshly because of his position as the son of a rich upper-class mother. He sent the boy on to the Emperor, Aurelius, who at first tried to convince him with pleasant conversation to join the members of the court in worshipping the gods. But Mamas' absolute refusal to renounce his faith infuriated the Emperor, and he ordered Mamas to be tortured and drowned.

Mamas was rescued by an angel of the Lord, and at the angel's direction he retreated to a high desert mountain where he lived as a solitary monk, praying and fasting intensely. The fierce animals that inhabited the wilderness would come near, listening as he chanted the Psalms and read the Gospels. He was actually able to live off the milk of the wild goats and does that seemed to regard him as a companion. He made cheese from the milk, offering it freely to poor people in the area.

Mamas' unusual way of living, his friendly encounters with wild beasts and his generosity to needy people became known and talked about. The local governor wanted no part of him, and sent soldiers to place him under arrest. But when the soldiers searched the place where he was said to live, they found only a simple shepherd who offered them a chance to rest a bit after their trek in the desert, and gave them fresh milk to drink. They had no idea who he was. But Mamas knew that he was destined for martyrdom, and told them his name.

A trial before local officials soon followed, and once again Mamas, still a teenager, stood strong in his faith despite humiliation and torture. Condemned to be killed by wild beasts, he robbed the spectators of their bloody entertainment when the animals would not harm him.



## Quote

Those who have seen him in visions,  
those living here who have him as  
their helper, those who have invoked  
his name and whom he has  
materially assisted, those errant ones  
whom he has set on the path of life,  
those whom he has healed of  
sicknesses, those whose children,  
already dead, he has returned to life,  
those whose life he has prolonged -  
all gather together and offer praise  
to the Martyr.

- St. Basil the Great

## Date Born

Paphlagonia, Asia Minor in the third century

## Date Died

+275 in a stone cave near Caesarea

## Place Buried

at the place of his repose

## Commemoration Date

Sept. 2nd



An enraged pagan priest stabbed him with a trident. With this fatal wound, Mamas retreated to a small cave and died there. The year was 275. In the centuries since then his relics have healed many, and his prayers have helped those who call on him, just as a kind Christian woman responded in love when he was an orphaned baby in need.

## Troparion (Tone 3)

Your holy martyr Mamas, O Lord,  
Through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God.  
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons.  
Through his intercessions, save our souls!

## Kontakion (Tone 3)

Podoben: Today the Virgin...  
Holy Mamas, lead your people as a flock to life-giving pastures  
With the staff God has given you;  
Crush the invisible and fierce enemies beneath the feet of those who honor you.  
For all of those who are in danger have received you as their fervent intercessor.

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"St. Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia ", Orthodox Church in America: Troparion and Kontakion, <http://www.oca.org/FStropars.asp?SID=13&ID=102459>

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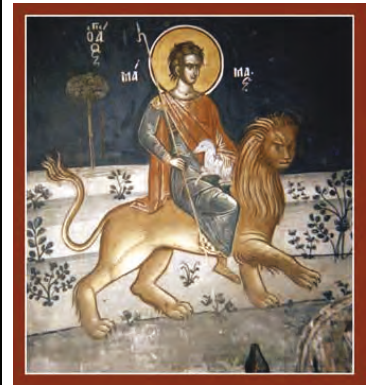
"Martyr Mamas, of Caesarea in Cappadocia and his parents, Martyrs Theodotus and Rufina", Lives of Saints – Holy Martyrs, [http://www.stjohndc.org/Russian/saint/e\\_9909d.htm](http://www.stjohndc.org/Russian/saint/e_9909d.htm)

## Key Terms

**Renouncing** - the act of denying and rejecting something you previously believed

**Persecution** - oppression or harsh treatment, often because of religious beliefs

**Articulate** - able to speak well, to express ideas clearly and convincingly





# Journal Prompts

**St. Mamas** ✦ Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia

1. Saint Mamas, an orphaned baby, was taken in and raised by another Christian - the widow Ammia. Do you know of anyone who has stepped forward to care for someone in need purely out of Christian love rather than family duty? Do you think you could do it?

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2. The story tells us that Saint Mamas converted people to Christianity by the way he talked about it. In what ways could you talk about your Orthodox Christian faith to others that might make them want to know more about it, or take part in it?

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3. The Kontakion refers to a "staff" given to Saint Mamas by God. What do you think the word "staff" refers to here?

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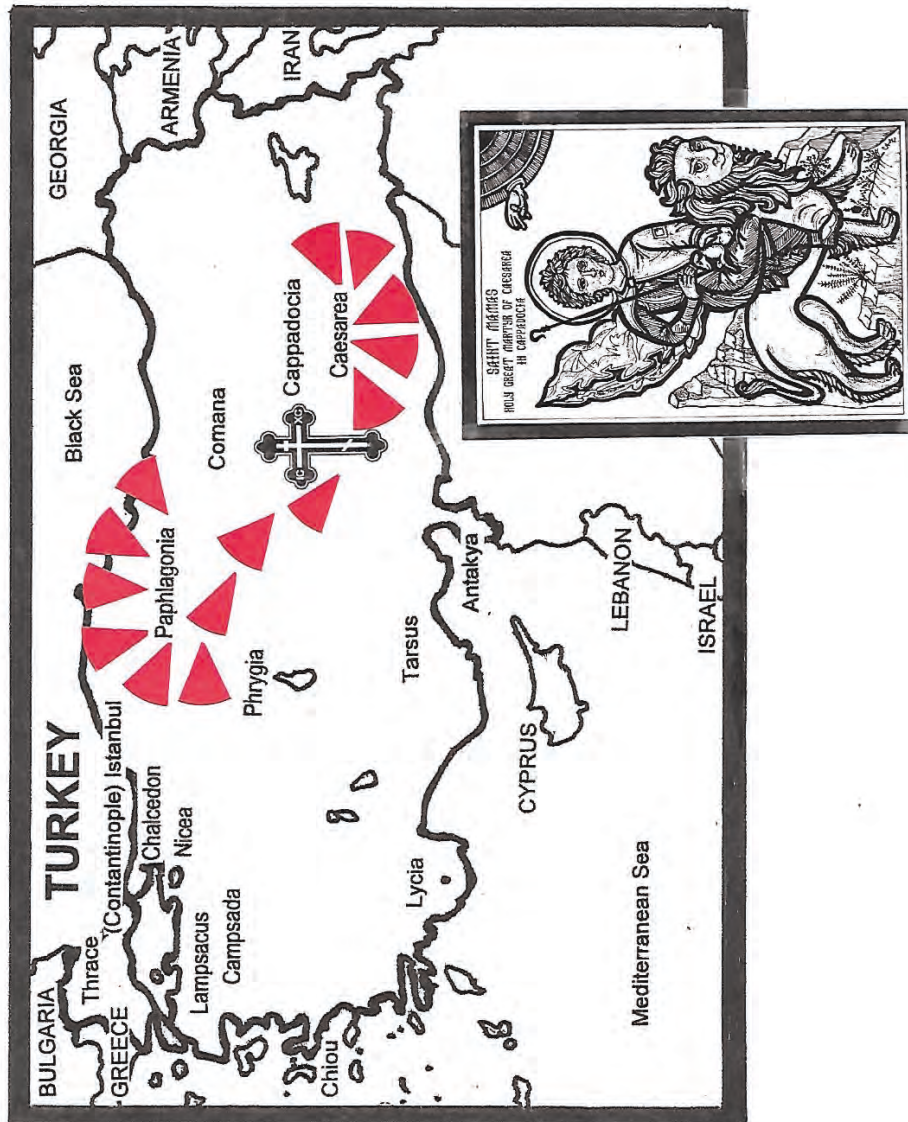
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. MAMAS



# SCRAMBLED UP

St. Mamas - Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia

*Unscramble the words to identify facts about St. Mamas*

1. sainthirC \_\_\_\_\_
2. aCesaera \_\_\_\_\_
3. hronap \_\_\_\_\_
4. 2breepSmet \_\_\_\_\_
5. rmmtrdoya \_\_\_\_\_
6. maiAm \_\_\_\_\_
7. lusiuaer \_\_\_\_\_
8. naRfiu \_\_\_\_\_
9. lgoaiphaPna \_\_\_\_\_
10. teohokoTs \_\_\_\_\_

# WORD SEARCH

St. Mamas - Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia

**FIND THE WORDS RELATED TO THE LIFE OF ST. MAMAS**

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

ANGEL  
ARTICULATE  
MAMAS

PERSECUTION  
RENOUNCING  
STRENGTH  
ORPHAN

TEENAGER  
TRIDENT  
WILD BEASTS



SAINT MARY OF EGYPT  
VENERABLE MOTHER

DESERT  
ASCETIC







# St. Mary of Egypt

Venerable Mother, Desert Ascetic, Patron Saint of Penitents

In Egypt, a few centuries after people started becoming Christians, there lived a young woman who was convinced that she should live only to satisfy herself. Her name was Mary, but her young life was very different from that of the Mary we hear so much about in the Orthodox Church, the Virgin Mary.

This other Mary ran away from her parents and her home when she was 12. She traveled from place to place and took on a lifestyle that was very harmful to her. She supported herself by spinning thread and making cloth, but the rest of the time she spent just trying to satisfy herself, something that no matter how hard she tried, she seemed unable to do. She was very **vain** and only wanted to have a good time, to do whatever she enjoyed and to tempt others to that life.

One day she noticed a group of people heading onto a boat bound for Jerusalem. Seeing an opportunity to attract some new people to her carefree life, Mary joined them on the boat. She spent some time with these new friends, **indulging** in the pleasures she was used to, but when they all arrived at the Church in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Elevation of the Cross, Mary, unlike the others, was prevented by something from entering the church.

She pressed into the crowd going through the doors, but each time she got close she felt as if she was being physically pushed back. She tried and tried but while others were able to enter the church, Mary was unable to pass through the doors. Looking up above the doors she saw the icon of the other Mary, the Virgin Mary, and Mary from Egypt felt ashamed.

Suddenly she saw how different her life had been from that of the faithful, obedient Mary. She knew that she wanted to change. She could feel inside a deepening desire to grow closer to God, but she did not know what she should do. She began to pray, to weep, and to beg that other Mary to guide her.

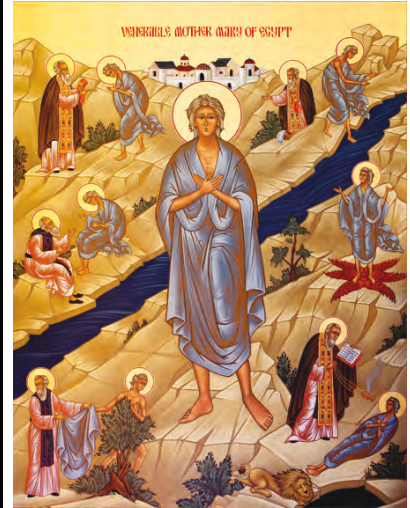
The next time Mary from Egypt moved forward with the crowd she was not kept from entering the church and she was able to join in the worship. In fact, while she was in the church a voice told her to travel to the desert beyond the Jordan River, where she would find peace.

That night, having been given some small loaves of bread, Mary prayed and received Communion at the Church of St. John the Baptist, by the Jordan River. From there she crossed over the river in a small boat and entered the desert, and into a very different life.

Mary lived alone in the desert for many years, praying, weeping and seeking God. She was hungry. She became ill. But still she **persevered** and finally she found peace from her sins and from the memories of her former life.

Meanwhile, a very pious monk named Fr. Zossima had been praying to meet a holy person. Wandering in the desert Fr. Zossima came upon Mary from Egypt. She was quite elderly by then, and had not encountered other people for all her years in the desert. She told Fr. Zossima her story and asked him to pray for her. She then requested that he bring her Communion during the next Lent and meet her by the Jordan River.

The next year Fr. Zossima arrived at the banks of the Jordan River and watched Mary walk across on the water to meet him. She took Communion and then asked Fr. Zossima to visit her again the next year, but to come to the place deep in the desert where they had first met. Again she asked him to pray for her.



## Quote

In my thoughts I returned to the ikon of the Mother of God which had received me and to her I cried in prayer. I implored her to chase away the thoughts to which my miserable soul was succumbing. And after weeping for long...I used to see light at last which seemed to shine on me from everywhere. And after the violent storm, lasting calm descended.

- from the Life of our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt,  
Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY

## Date Born

Circa 344 in Egypt

## Date Died

Circa 421 in the Trans-Jordan desert,  
Palestine

## Commemoration Date

April 1 and fifth Sunday of Great Lent



The next year, when Fr. Zossima ventured deep into the desert to find Mary, she was in the place where she told him she would be, but she was dead. A note written in the sand told him that she had died right after receiving Communion the year before. How did her body get to this place, many days' walk away? Fr. Zossima was very sad, but wanted to bury Mary. He was not strong enough to dig her grave, but a lion arrived and helped him. At the end of her life Mary from Egypt had become more like the Virgin Mary. Humble and obedient Mary from Egypt, who was a great sinner, became a great saint who we remember as Mary of Egypt.

## Troparion (Tone 8)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O mother,  
 For you took up the Cross and followed Christ.  
 By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away;  
 But to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal.  
 Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the Angels.

## Kontakion (Tone 8)

Having been a sinful woman,  
 You became through repentance a Bride of Christ.  
 Having attained angelic life,  
 You defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross;  
 Therefore, O most glorious Mary you are a Bride of the Kingdom!

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Icon of Mary of Egypt and Fr. Zossima <http://oca.org/FSicons-churchyear.asp?SID=4&Section=lentencommemorations>

Iconogram of Mary of Egypt <http://www.iconograms.org/sig.php?eid=900>

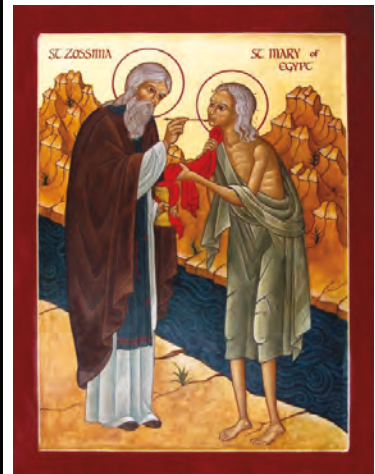
Modern day church of St. John the Baptist at the Jordan River <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sarfrzh/7070105513/>

## Key Terms

**Vain** - overly proud and self-absorbed

**Indulging** - giving in to something

**Persevered** - persisted and/or continued in something, even in the face of great obstacles







# Journal Prompts

**St. Mary of Egypt** ✦ Venerable Mother, Desert Ascetic, Patron Saint of Penitents

1. Why do you think Mary from Egypt could not enter the Church in Jerusalem?

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2. Why did Mary spend so many years living alone in the desert?

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3. What do you think led Fr. Zossima to find Mary and hear her story?

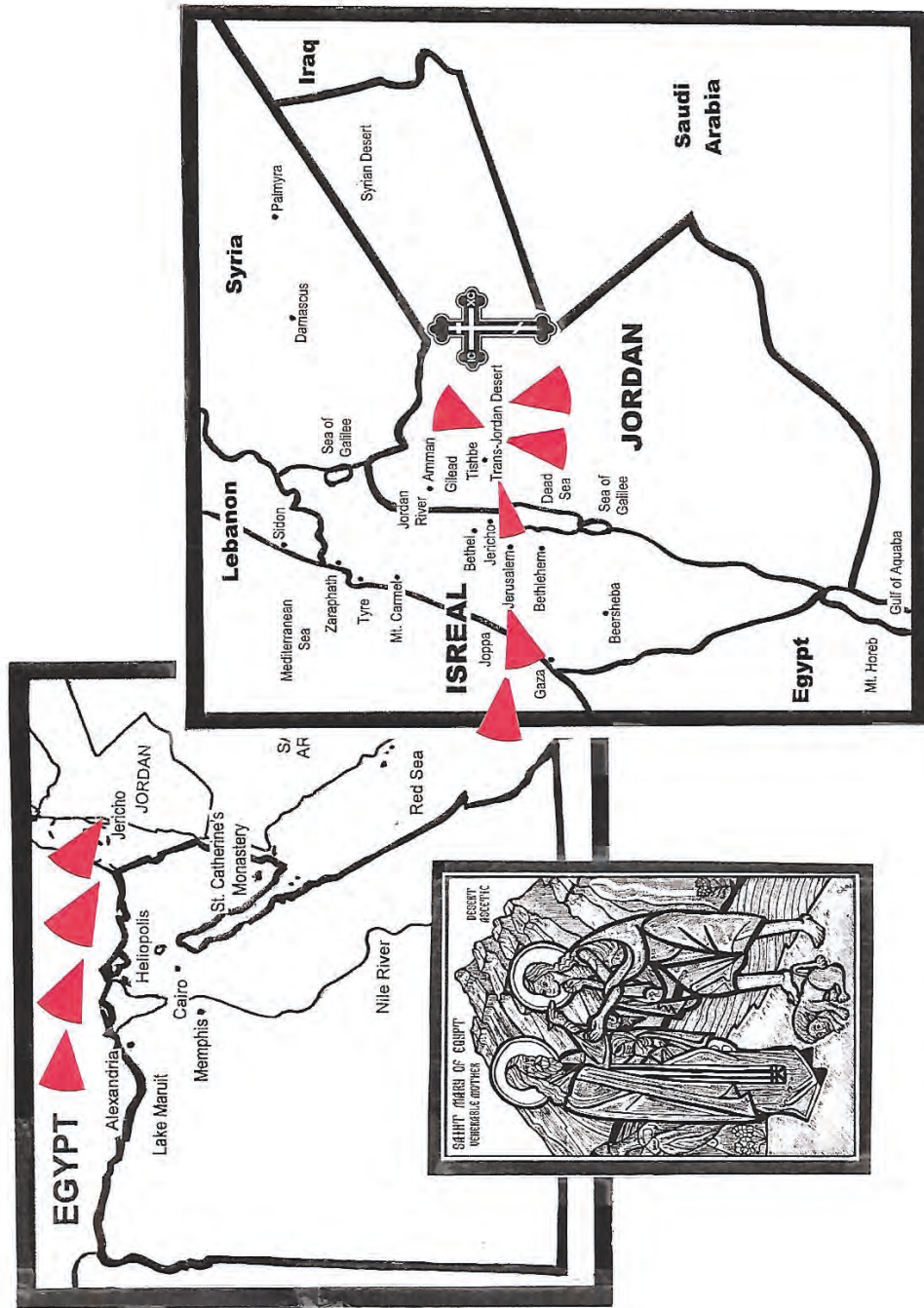
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. MARY OF EGYPT



# ALL SCRAMBLED UP

St. Mary of Egypt

*Unscramble the letters to identify words related  
to the life of St. Mary of Egypt.*

*All the words can be found in the biographical information for St. Mary.*

1. l i n d g n u g i \_\_\_\_\_

2. e w e l t v \_\_\_\_\_

3. b l e m h u \_\_\_\_\_

4. d e b t i n e o \_\_\_\_\_

5. r a n d o r e v i J R \_\_\_\_\_

6. m o s s a Z i \_\_\_\_\_

7. l a P n e s t i n \_\_\_\_\_

8. t a B s t i p \_\_\_\_\_

9. l A p i r \_\_\_\_\_

10. t p y E g \_\_\_\_\_



# FIND THE VOWELS

## St. Mary of Egypt

*Place the missing vowels in each of the words. Then write the completed words on the lines below. You will create two sentences about the life of St. Mary of Egypt.*

**A E I O U**

H__m b l__	__ n d	__ b __ d __ __ n t	,
M __r __	f r __ m	__ g __ p t	w h __
w __ s	__	g r __ __ t	s __ n n e r
b __ c __ m __	__	g r __ __ t	s __ __ n t.

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S h __	__ s	C __ m m __ m __ r __ t __ d	__ n	__ p r __ l
l,	__ n d	t h __	f _ f t h	S __ n d __ y
__ f	G r __ __ t	L __ n t.		

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**SAINT MENAS**  
**HOLY GLORIOUS RIGHT-VICTORIOUS MARTYR**  
**WONDER-WORKER OF EGYPT**







# St. Menas

Holy, Glorious, Right-victorious, Wonder-working Great Martyr of Egypt

Have you ever marveled at the wisdom of animals? Sometimes they are helpers in time of need, rescuers of those in danger, and announcers of events. In the story of Saint Menas, simple camels and an innocent lamb were the heralds of a saint, who might have otherwise been forgotten!

Menas was born in Niceous, Egypt in 285 A.D. His parents, Eudoxius and Euphemia, were faithful Christians, even though most of the people in Egypt still worshiped pagan gods. For many years they hoped and prayed for children. On the feast day of Saint Mary, Euphemia tearfully prayed before the icon of the Theotokos, asking God to give her a child. She heard a voice say, "Amen," and soon gave birth to a son, naming him Menas, or Mena, which is the Greek spelling.

Eudoxius, a ruler in the military of Egypt, died suddenly when Menas was fourteen years old. When Menas turned fifteen, he joined the Egyptian army, was given a high rank because of his late father's position, and was sent to serve in Algeria, in northern Africa. During the reigns of pagan Emperors Diocletian (284-305 A.D.) and Maximian (305-311 A.D.), there began severe persecutions of Christians. After three years of serving in the army, Menas felt a longing to serve Christ. He refused to be part of the imperial persecutions, and, removing the belt of his military rank as a symbol of protest, resigned his post and left to live a quiet life as a *hermit* on a desert mountain.

After five years of prayer and fasting, Menas had a *vision* of angels placing beautiful crowns on the heads of many *martyrs*. He then heard a voice which said, "*Blessed are you, Menas, because you have been called to the pious life from your childhood. You shall be granted three immortal crowns; one because of your celibacy, the second because of your asceticism, and the third for your martyrdom.*" Menas then felt himself being lifted up, as if he were going up to Heaven.

Not long after this vision, Menas arrived in the city during a pagan celebration. As the festival games went on, Menas came forward and declared that he was a Christian. He preached to the crowds to follow him. He was taken to the prefect or local law officer, named Pyrrhus. Menas continued to declare that Jesus Christ is Lord and that all should follow Him. Pyrrhus became angry and had Menas formally arrested, but remembering Menas as a faithful officer, he offered to restore him to his former rank if he would make a sacrifice to the pagan gods. When Menas refused he was tortured. This impressed many of the pagans, who began to seek Jesus Christ. This angered Pyrrhus even more. He had Menas beheaded in 304 A.D.

The sister of Menas was able to receive her brother's remains from the pagans for burial in the church in Alexandria. After persecution of Christians was lifted, Patriarch Athanasius of Alexandria had a vision from angels that Menas should be buried in the desert west of Alexandria. As the camel caravan came to a well near Lake Mariut, the camel carrying Menas stopped and would not continue. Those in the caravan realized this was a sign from God, and they buried Menas there. Many miracles began to happen on this spot.

During a later invasion, the local governor secretly moved the body of Saint Menas. After a victorious battle, the governor planned to move Saint Menas to Alexandria again. When the camel carrying Saint Menas came to the same spot near Lake Mariut, it knelt down and refused to move! When the body of Menas was placed onto another camel, the second camel also would not move. The governor realized Saint Menas must again be buried there. He carved a beautiful wooden coffin and buried Saint Menas in the same spot as before.

Many years later a local shepherd was feeding his sheep in the area. One of his lambs became very ill and fell to its knees on the ground. As the lamb struggled to get up again, it suddenly became



## Quote

Blessed are you, Abba Menas, because you have been called to the pious life from your childhood. You shall be granted three immortal crowns; one because of your celibacy, the second because of your asceticism, and the third for your martyrdom.

- Voice in the desert, speaking to St. Menas

## Date Born

285 A.D. in the city of Niceous (Nakiyos or Nikiu) in the vicinity of Memphis

## Date Died

304 AD in the desert

## Place Buried

at the Coptic Orthodox Monastery at the end of Lake Mariut, near Alexandria, Egypt

## Commemoration Date

November 11



well. The story spread, and many people came to the spot to be cured of their illnesses by lying on the ground where Saint Menas was buried.

Later, the daughter of Emperor Zinon of Constantinople became ill with a painful and dreaded disease called leprosy. She was advised to travel to the desert spot where miracles were happening. After arriving, the girl saw Saint Menas in a dream telling her it was his burial site. She then bathed in the well and was healed.

The emperor ordered a church to be built there. Not only was there a church, but an entire city grew around it, attracting visitors from as far as England, France, Germany, Italy, and Jerusalem. People took water and holy oil from the site in small jugs to help those in their homelands. Because of this, a monastery was built on the site. The monastery and city were burned during an Arab invasion. Much later, the Church was able to rebuild the monastery on the same spot as the old one. People are able, once again, to be blessed by Saint Menas, who was saved by camels and is known as the Miracle-maker.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

Your holy martyrs, O Lord,  
Through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God.  
For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons.  
Through their intercessions, save our souls!

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Today the church honors those who fought the good fight and died for their faith:  
The victorious Menas, the noble Victor and the ascetic Vincent.  
The church glorifies their divine struggle and cries out with love:  
Glory to You, O Christ, the lover of mankind.

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"St. Menas, Martyr of Egypt", Troparion and Kontakion, Orthodox Church in America <http://www.oca.org/FStropars.asp?SID=13&ID=103277>

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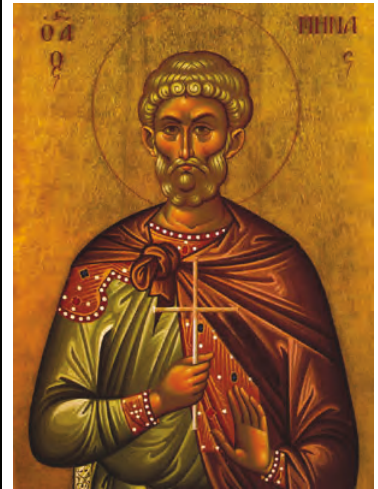
"St. Menas of Egypt", Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, WA, <http://home.iprimus.com.au/xenos/egyptmenas.html>

## Key Terms

**Vision** - a dream or sign from God, usually with a message

**Martyr** - a person who is killed for his or her faith in God

**Hermit** - one who lives alone to fast, pray, and become closer to and serve God







# Journal Prompts

St. Menas ✝ Wonder-working Great Martyr of Egypt

1. Saint Menas left a life of high rank and wealth to live a life with Christ. What do you do to show your love for Jesus Christ? How can prayer and fasting help us become closer to God?

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2. Saint Menas appeared to many people and helped them by curing their illnesses. How can we help other people when they are hurt or sick?

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3. Saint Menas was not afraid to speak up for what he believed, even though this was very dangerous because those around him did not believe in Christ. How can we show our faith to those who perhaps do not believe in God or Jesus Christ? What three things can we do to help people see that Jesus Christ is Lord and God?

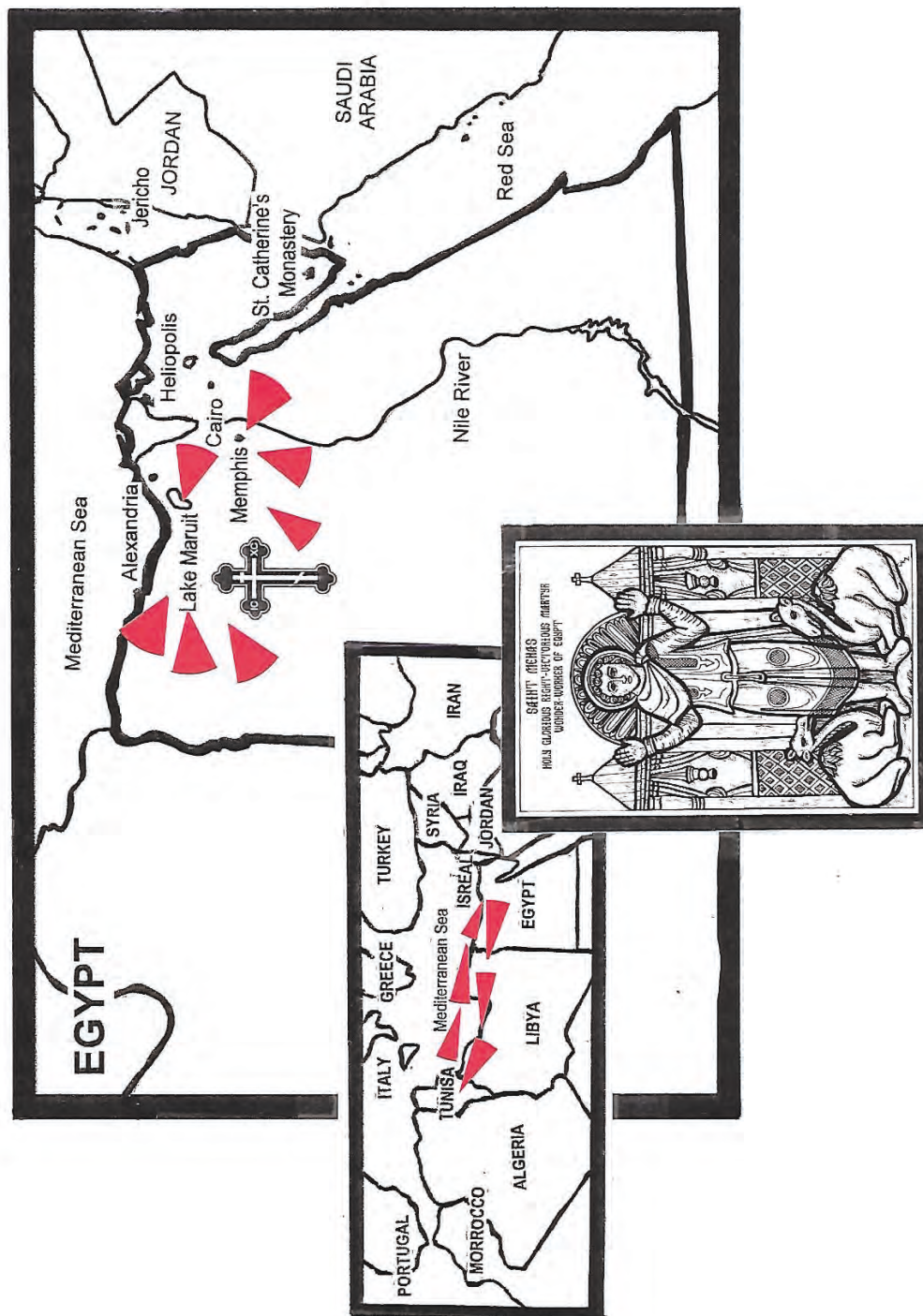
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. MENAS



# ADD OR SUBTRACT

St. Menas - Holy, Glorious, Right-victorious Martyr  
and Wonderworker of Egypt

Add or Subtract to find one of the miracles of St. Menas

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

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccc} \hline C+2 & O-2 & S-3 & A+4 & T-2 & L+3 & N+4 & & V+4 & J-1 & L+2 & M+2 & K+3 & Q+2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \hline A+3 & F-5 & W-2 & D+3 & L-4 & O+5 & G-2 & O+3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc} \hline P+4 & S-1 & F-5 & W-1 & C+2 & N-2 & D+1 & J-6 & & V-2 & K+4 & & Q+3 & J-2 & H-3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccc} \hline A+1 & R+3 & R-0 & F+3 & G-6 & M-1 & & O+4 & H+1 & Q+3 & C+2 & & K+4 & D+2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc} \hline Q+2 & P+4 & & K+2 & C+2 & K+3 & B-1 & L+7 & & A+1 & B-1 & R+2 & F+2 & C+2 & B+2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc} \hline L-3 & K+3 & & R+2 & F+2 & C+2 & & Z-3 & C+2 & J+2 & N-2 & & C-2 & K+3 & B+2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} \hline V+1 & C-2 & Q+2 & & B+1 & S+2 & O+3 & B+3 & A+3 & & L+3 & C+3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \hline J+2 & C+2 & M+3 & P+2 & L+3 & Q+2 & W+2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

St. Menas - Holy, Glorious, Right-victorious Martyr and Wonderworker of Egypt

*Unscramble the words in the Word Bank,  
then use them to fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.*

1. The birthplace of St. Menas was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. At the age of \_\_\_\_\_ St. Menas joined the army.
3. St. Menas was saved by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. His burial place was near the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In 304 A.D., \_\_\_\_\_ ordered the beheading of St. Menas.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, the mother of St. Menas, prayed before the icon of the Theotokos to have a child.
7. St. Menas was a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ army.
8. Patriarch \_\_\_\_\_ had a vision that St. Menas would be buried in a desert west of Alexandria.
9. St. Menas was known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_, father of St. Menas, was a ruler in the Egyptian Army.

LARMICE-KERMA

SURPHYR

ONSCIUE

LACESM

ASINTSUAHA

HIMPEAUE

DUESOIUX

EFINEFT

DERANALIAX

ANTYEPGI



SAINT SERAPHIM  
VENERABLE WONDER-WORKER  
OF SAROV







# St. Seraphim

Venerable, God-bearing Father, Wonder-worker of Sarov

Some saints have very special things happen to them early in their lives. Saint Seraphim was one of those saints, and because of his wonderful experiences, he felt close to Mary the Mother of God for the rest of his life.

Born Prokhor Moshin to a merchant family in Kursk, Russia, he became very ill when he was ten years old. While asleep, he had a vision of the Mother of God, promising to heal him. A few days later, a religious procession passed the Moshins' house. Prokhor's mother held her sick child up to a miracle-working icon of the Mother of God, and soon he made a complete and quick recovery.

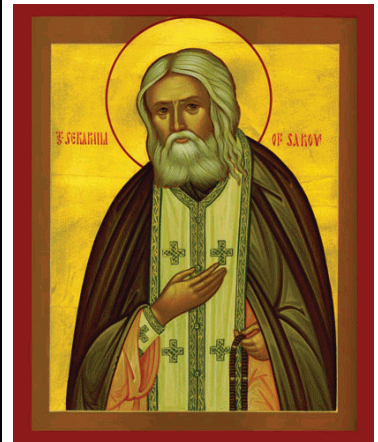
As he grew older, Prokhor attended church services regularly, read the lives of the saints, and often went alone to a quiet place to pray. By the time he turned eighteen, he knew he wanted to be a monk, and entered the monastery at Sarov as a **novice**. He became well-known for taking only the barest minimum of food and sleeping very little. He continued his solitary prayer, often retreating into the forest with the permission of his **starets**. Once again he became ill - so ill that he had to spend three full years lying down. But once again, the Mother of God healed him in a vision.

By 1786, at the age of thirty-two, he was ready to take his monastic vows. He was given the name Seraphim, which in Hebrew means "fiery" or "burning", because of his ardent and "burning" prayer. It was certainly an appropriate name, for while praying Seraphim had a vision of angels and, once on Holy Thursday, of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. In 1793, now a **hieromonk**, Seraphim's prayer became even more intense as he began to withdraw into the wilderness some distance from the monastery. Here his holiness reached such perfection that animals of the forest came to his tiny hut as welcome visitors; a bear ate from his hand. The abess of the Diveyevo Monastery witnessed this and said, "*The face of the great Starets was particularly miraculous. It was joyous and bright, as that of an angel.*" Even when robbers once beat him so severely that he would be bent over for the rest of his life, Seraphim didn't resist. He didn't use his considerable physical strength to fight the men off. Instead he prayed for his attackers, and later interceded for them when they were arrested and tried.

Not long after this, Seraphim began the first of a thousand days spent in almost constant prayer, kneeling on a rock with his arms upraised. As the years went by, he took on a new ministry. Having had a wonderful vision of the Mother of God, he began receiving the thousands of people who came to him from all parts of Russia for healing and counsel. He would greet each person with "*Christ is Risen!*" and address each one as "*My Joy.*" He also became the spiritual father for a women's monastery nearby. With all these people he had the gift of seeing into their souls, a gift that comes only with years of spiritual effort and struggle. He always used his gift for the good of others, and said, "*Acquire a peaceful spirit, and thousands around you will be saved.*"

Some people think that a holy person or a saint is solemn and pensive all the time. But Saint Seraphim shows us how untrue that is. He said, "Cheerfulness is not a sin. It drives away weariness, for from weariness there is sometimes dejection, and nothing is worse than that." He also told people who came to him that they were capable of praying deeply, just as monks can. Seraphim's visions gave him such a true and clear picture of God's Kingdom that he once exclaimed to another monk, "Oh, if you only knew what joy, what sweetness awaits a righteous soul in Heaven! You would decide in this earthly life to bear any sorrows, persecutions and slander with gratitude."

Saint Seraphim spent the rest of his life as a spiritual elder to many people, counseling, healing, doing miracles, and continuing his intense prayer. He died in 1833. Seventy years later, Tsar Nicholas with his family and members of the imperial court, as well as the Church's highest officials



## Quote

The ineffable glow of the light which emanated from him I saw with my own eyes. And I am ready to vouch for it with an oath.

- Nicholas Motovilov, who had spiritual conversations with St. Seraphim, describing the saints appearance

## Date Born

July 19, 1754 in Kursk, Russia

## Date Died

January 2, 1833

## Place Buried

Holy Trinity - St. Seraphim Diveyevo Monastery near Sarov, Russia

## Commemoration Date

July 19



and countless priests and monks, came to take part in Seraphim's canonization as one of the most-loved and best-known saints of the Orthodox Church in Russia.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

You loved Christ from your youth, O blessed one,  
And longing to work for Him alone you struggled  
in the wilderness in constant prayer and labor.  
With penitent heart and great love for Christ  
you were favored by the Mother of God.  
Therefore we cry to you:  
Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father.

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Forsaking the beauty as well as the corruption of this world,  
You settled in the monastery of Sarov, O Saint.  
There you lived an angelic life,  
Becoming for many the way to salvation.  
Therefore, Christ has glorified you, Father Seraphim,  
Enriching you with abundant healing and miracles.  
So we cry to you:  
Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father.

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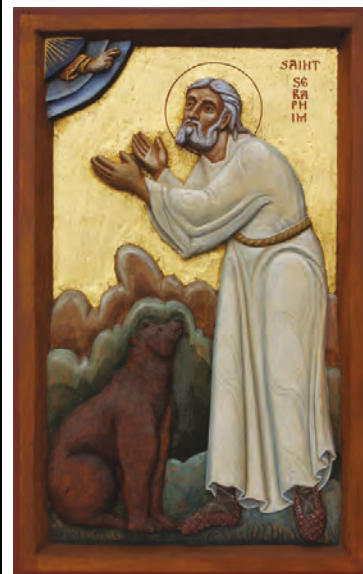
"St. Seraphim of Sarov", Orthodox America, <http://www.roca.org/OA/22/22m.htm>

## Key Terms

**Novice** - the first level of monasticism, before lifelong vows are taken

**Starets** - a Russian word meaning a spiritual elder

**Hieromonk** - a monk who is also a priest





# Journal Prompts

**St. Seraphim** ✝ Venerable, God-bearing Father, Wonder-worker of Sarov

1. What effects did Saint Seraphim's visions of the Mother of God have on his life? What things did he do because of those visions?

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2. Why do you think wild animals were so willing to trust Saint Seraphim?

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3. How would you put this famous saying of Saint Seraphim into your own words: "*Acquire a spirit of peace, and thousands around you will be saved*"?

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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. SERAPHIM



# THE CONSONANT IS MISSING

St. Seraphim of Sarov - Venerable Wonder-worker

*Fill in the Missing Consonants to identify terms related to St. Seraphim.  
You will find all the words you need when you read the  
story of St. Seraphim's life.*

1. \_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_ E

5. \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_ O

8. \_\_\_\_ I E \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_ E A \_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_

# WORD SUDUKO

St. Seraphim of Sarov - Venerable Wonder-worker

*The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct words.*

There are three very simple constraints to follow in a 6 by 6 square Sudoku game:

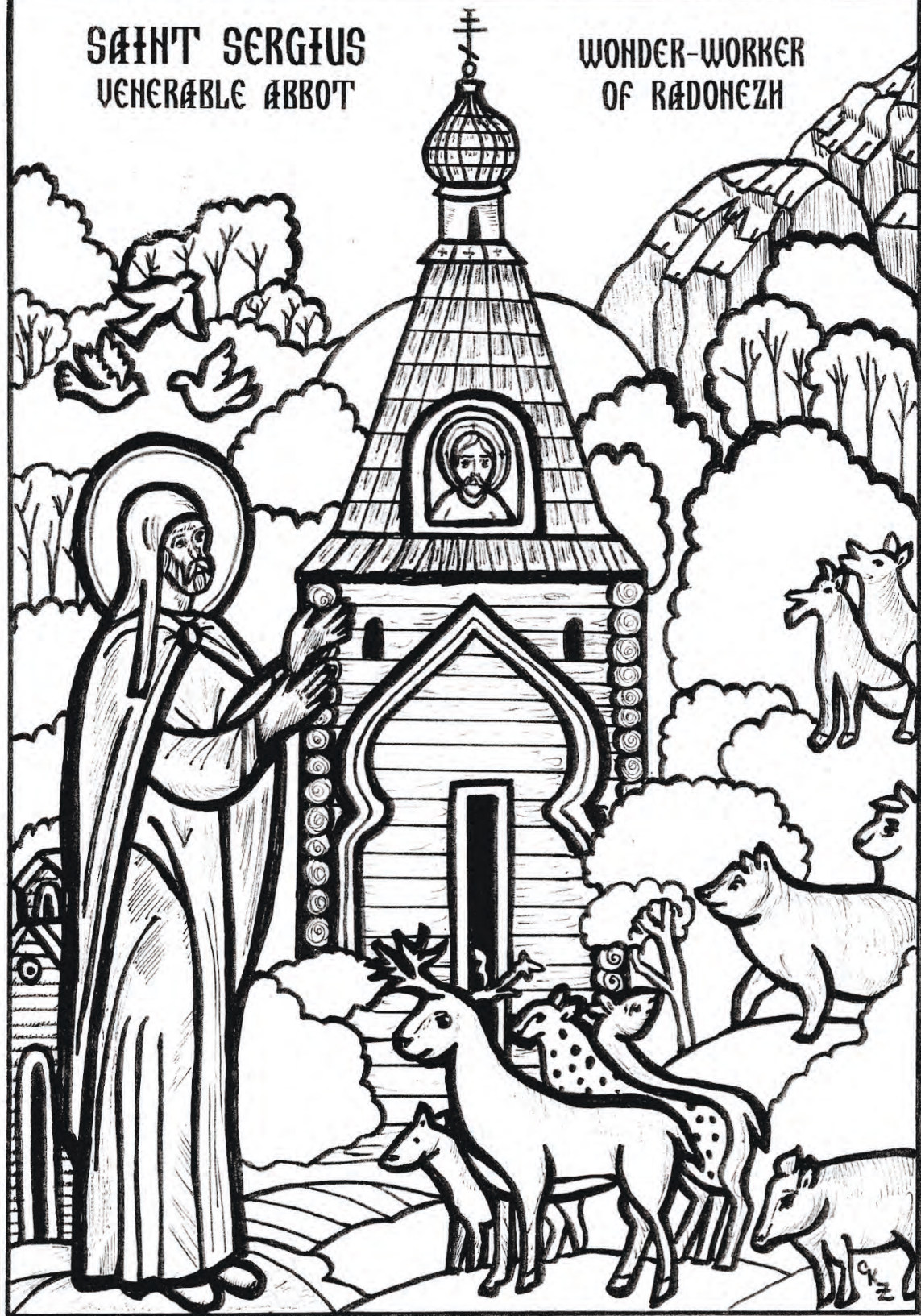
- Every ROW of 6 words must include all 6 words in any order.
- Every COLUMN of 6 words must include all 6 words in any order.
- Every 3 by 2 SUBSECTION of the 6 by 6 square must include all 6 words.

	Kursk			Seraphim	
Sarov	Seraphim			Kursk	
	Prokhor		Canonization		
				Novice	Kursk
		Prokhor			Novice



**SAINT SERGIUS**  
**VENERABLE ABBOT**

**WONDER-WORKER**  
**OF RADONEZH**







# St. Sergius

## Venerable Father, Abbot and Wonder-worker of Radonezh

In the later 14th Century, without telephones or email, people shared news when they met at church or the market, or visited with someone from the next town. One piece of news that began to spread was that a holy man was living alone in the forest.

These were hard years in Russia. War, hardship and sometimes violent opposition to the government and to the teachings of the Orthodox Church were part of life.

During these years a pious family—parents Cyril and Mary and their sons Peter, Stephen and Bartholomew—lived some distance from Moscow. Young Bartholomew spent many hours in the forest, walking, praying and sadly wondering why he seemed unable to learn to read and write.

One afternoon in the forest he saw an elderly monk praying. Bartholomew shared his sadness with the monk, who listened carefully and then prayed with him. The monk gave the boy a piece of **prosphora** and told him that God would grant him the ability to read and write.

Inviting the monk home for dinner with his family, Bartholomew surprised them (and himself) when he read clearly and capably from the Book of Psalms during family prayers. The whole family rejoiced that God showed mercy through the hardship Bartholomew had endured.

Bartholomew decided to become a monk himself, but did not enter the monastic life immediately. As the only brother still single, he cared for his aging parents while continuing his prayer life. After his parents died, he and his brother Stephen, now a widower, received their bishop's permission to build a hut and a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, in the forest. There they would live and pray together.

Stephen eventually had to leave because primitive forest life was making him ill. Though now alone, Bartholomew found that birds and bears were drawn to him. Rather than flee from the bears he either shared his food or they went hungry together.

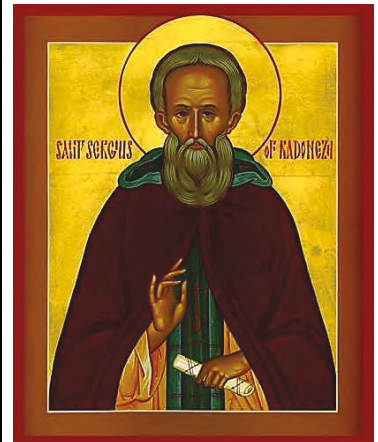
On October 7th, 1337 an abbot visited Bartholomew, **tonsured** him a monk and gave him the name Sergius.

Others heard about the holy monk living alone in the forest and sharing his meager meals with bears. Men began coming to join this isolated life. As the community grew, there was sometimes not enough food or water. Hungry and thirsty monks began to argue with one another. Each time Sergius urged them to trust God, and though they often suffered, eventually help would come.

The local bishop felt that this growing community needed to organize as a monastery. The brothers elected Sergius as the abbot. Though he preferred to remain a simple monk, Sergius consented to become abbot and later was ordained a priest. He took part in the physical labor needed to maintain the monastery, and visitors were often surprised to find the abbot scrubbing the floors or chopping wood.

Others continued to recognize the holiness in the prayerful and humble Abbot Sergius. The monastery grew, and more were built. Once during the Divine Liturgy an altar server saw angels around the blessed abbot, and another time the Theotokos visited Sergius and assured him of her protection so long as his monasteries honored God. Abbot Sergius did not discuss these events, but through them others recognized his **sanctity**.

Even the warring rulers of Russia came to Abbot Sergius for counsel. But the years did not bring only peace and growth to the monasteries. Personal disagreements, hardships of forest life, and the continuing reluctance of the abbot to impose his will on others affected monastic life. If he



### Quote

As the Mother of God reached out to touch him, while speaking this word: 'Have no fear, for your prayers have been heard, henceforth through the ages this monastery will flourish, for it, I myself shall protect and shall nourish.

- Alvin Alessi Currier in *The Wonderful Life of Russias Saint Sergius of Radonezh*

### Date Born

May 3, 1314 in the village of Varnitsa, near Rostov Velikiy, Russia

### Date Died

September 25, 1392 at Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra, Sergiev Posad

### Place Buried

Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra, Sergiev Posad

### Commemoration Date

September 25



had to reprimand one of the monks he would go to the door of the monk's cell and knock. When the monk asked what he wanted, Sergius would answer: "You know." His profound spiritual insight told him that the offending monk did indeed already know.

Predicting the time of his own death, Abbot Sergius prepared his spiritual children. He died peacefully at his monastery on September 25th, 1392 and was buried there. Thirty years later it was discovered that his body had not decomposed. He looked as if he were sleeping. Recognizing Sergius' holiness, the Russian Orthodox Church canonized him as a saint. The monasteries he founded still exist today as centers of Orthodox prayer, and the Monastery of the Holy Trinity, located a short distance from Moscow, is the residence of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Students struggling with their studies continue to ask St. Sergius for help and intercession. A young boy, struggling to read and write, became a great leader of monasticism in the Orthodox Church, and an example of holiness.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

A zealot of good deeds and a true warrior of Christ our God,  
You struggled greatly against the passions in this passing life;  
In songs and vigils and fasting you were an image and example to your disciples,  
Thus the most Holy Spirit lived within you,  
And you were made beautiful by His working.  
Since you have great boldness before the Holy Trinity,  
Remember the flock which you have wisely gathered,  
And do not forget to visit your children as you promised, venerable Sergius our father!

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

Bound by the love of Christ, O venerable one, and following Him with unwavering desire,  
You despised all carnal pleasures and you shone like the sun in your land.  
Therefore, Christ has enriched you with the gift of miracles.  
Remember us who venerate your most holy memory,  
And who call out to you: "Rejoice, Sergius, made wise by God!"

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## Key Terms

**Prosphora** - a small loaf of raised bread that is used during the Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church

**Tonsure** - the act of cutting a portion of hair, as a sign of giving oneself to God, when one enters a new stage of religious life

**Sanctity** - the quality of being holy or sacred







# Journal Prompts

**St. Sergius** ✝ Venerable Father, Abbot and Wonder-worker of Radonezh

1. Bartholomew grew up in a pious family.  
How can families help each other grow closer to God?

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2. From childhood Sergius loved God and the Church.  
Are all saints holy from childhood on?

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3. What difficulties did Bartholomew, later the Monk Sergius, encounter in his life and how did they help form him as a person and as a monk?

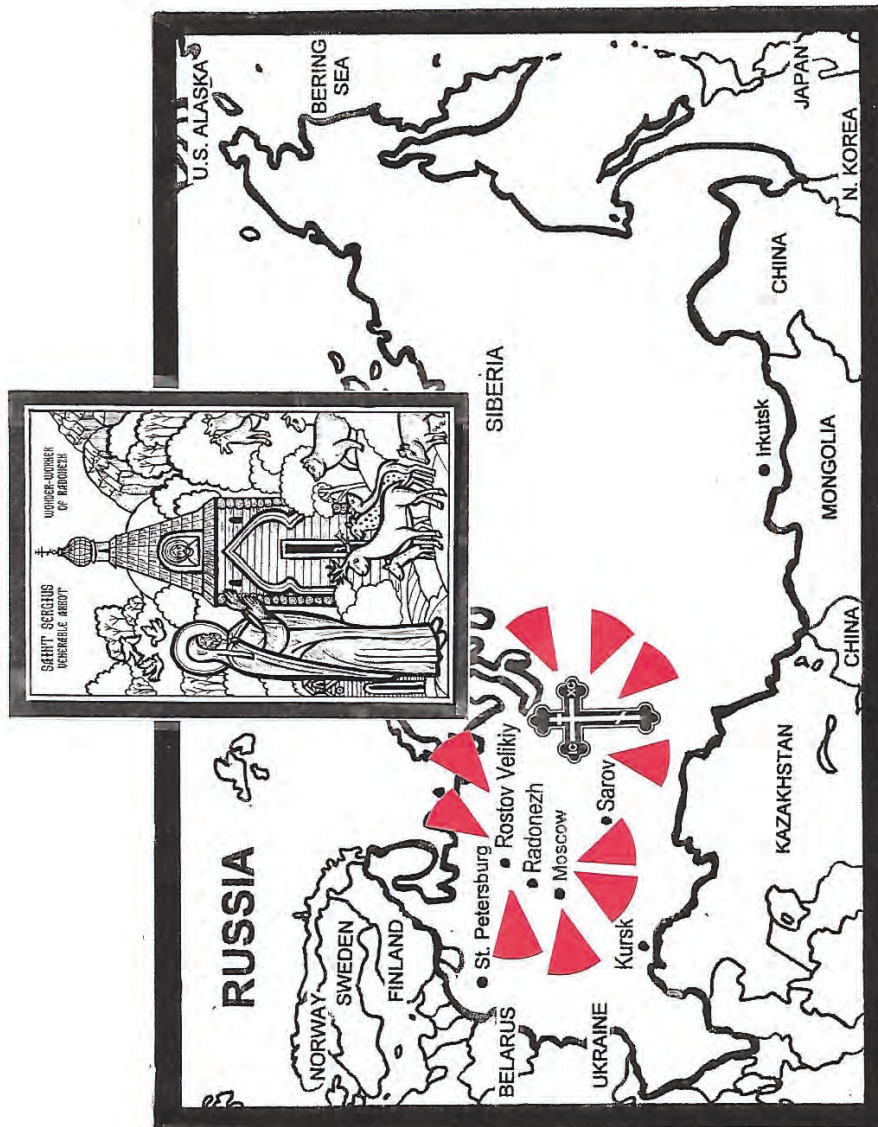
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. SERGIUS



## FINISH THE SENTENCE

St. Sergius - Venerable Abbot and Wonder-worker of Radonezh

*Use the words from the box below to complete each sentence about the life of St. Sergius. Write the word on each line.*

Bartholomew	tonsured	Stephen	God	Theotokos
Radonezh	bears	canonized	chapel	September

1. By cutting a portion of his hair, Sergius was \_\_\_\_\_ a monk.
2. Sergius was \_\_\_\_\_ a saint by the Russian Orthodox Church.
3. When St. Sergius was born, his name was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He lived in a forest near \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was the name of one of his brothers.
6. St. Sergius shared his food with \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ gave St. Sergius the ability to read.
8. He is remembered (commemorated) on \_\_\_\_\_ 25.
9. St. Sergius and his brother built a \_\_\_\_\_ in the forest.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ visited St. Sergius and told him his monasteries would be protected.



# FROM A TO W

St. Sergius - Venerable Abbot and Wonder-worker of Radonezh

*Read the biography of St. Sergius to find the words to complete the activity.  
Use the letters from the box below to fill in the missing letter and complete  
the words in the puzzle. Write the words on the lines below.  
The first one is done for you.*

A C E L M N P R T W

1.	A	F	G	S	A	N	C	T	I	F	Y	I	X	M	E	U
2.	M	R	U	S	S	I		C	E	W	E	R	E	T	I	M
3.	C	A	N	I	D	O		R	O	S	P	H	O	R	A	T
4.	P	R	E	S	T	O		S	U	R	E	M	A	N	Y	S
5.	M	A	K	E	R	S		R	G	I	U	S	B	W	O	V
6.	V	M	O	S	C	O		R	I	T	E	S	I	N	K	R
7.	Y	O	C	Y	R	I		U	T	Q	M	A	N	T	E	E
8.	L	A	Y	E	R	N		A	R	Y	B	E	D	A	X	W
9.	B	N	P	E	T	E		S	H	I	P	C	O	T	Q	Y
10.	C	A	R	B	A	R		H	O	L	O	M	E	W	S	T

1. SANCTIFY

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

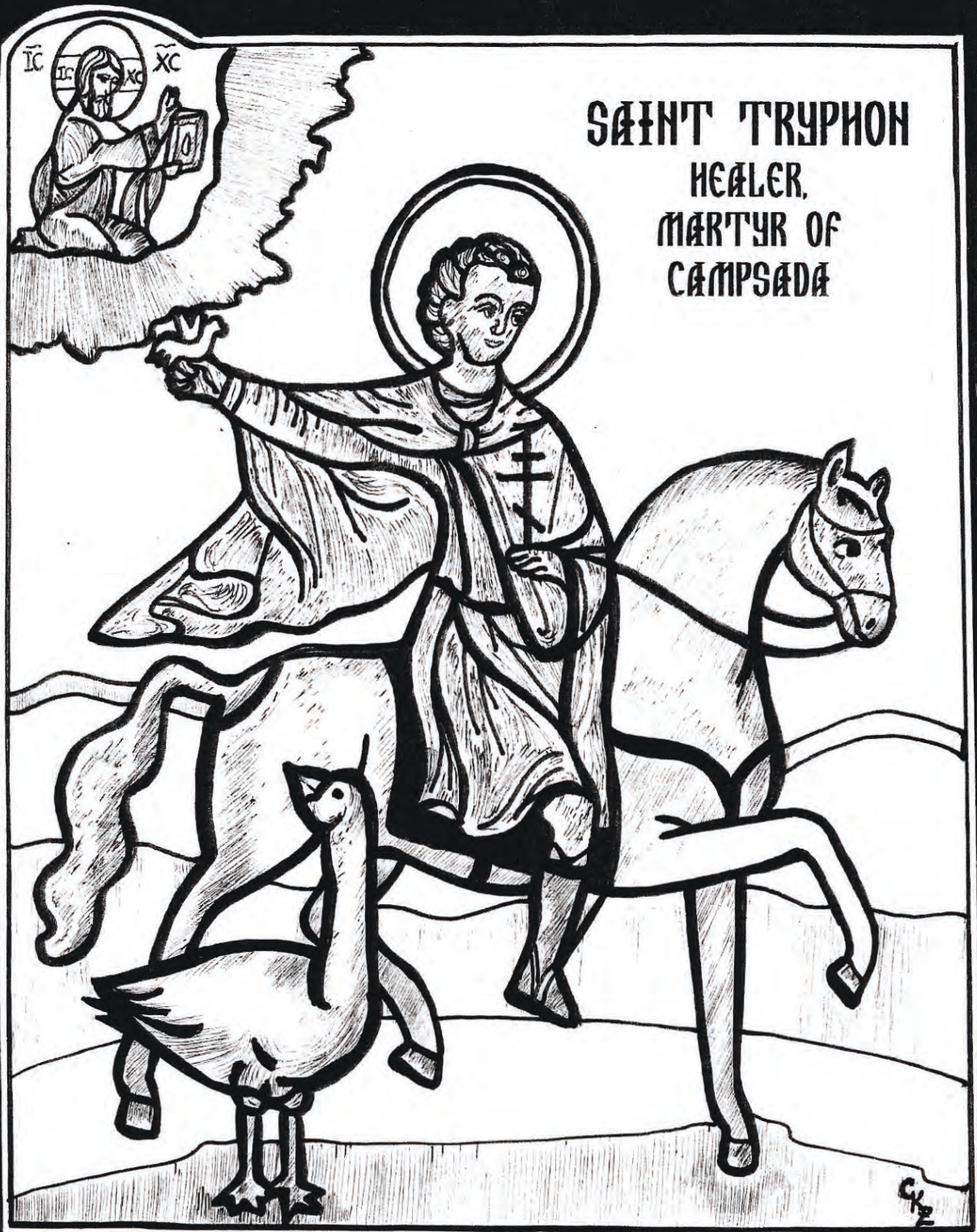
6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



SAINT TRYPHON  
HEALER,  
MARTYR OF  
CAMPSADA



# St. Tryphon

Martyr of Campsada near Apamea in Syria

The town of Lampsacus (also known as Campsada) is located in Phrygia, a district of Asia Minor, now modern Turkey. Saint **Tryphon** was born in this simple village and all his life he loved the area and the people. As a young boy he took care of geese. His parents were poor and very devout Christians. Saint Tryphon used the time watching the geese as a time of prayer, and because of his tenderness he grew close to God. God filled Saint Tryphon with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Saint Tryphon was able to cure illnesses of people and animals and also to cast out evil spirits, even as a young boy. He became famous for healing animals and is considered one of the Holy **Unmercenaries**; farmers pray to him.

All his life Saint Tryphon helped and protected the people of Lampsacus.

One example is when he saved the people of his village from starvation. There was a plague of locusts that were devouring the grain and ruining the crops. Saint Tryphon prayed with all his heart and soul and God turned back the plague. Saint Tryphon's prayers are read by the church to send away destructive animals such as the locust that are harmful to crops.

Another example of Saint Tryphon's care for his people is when he healed the Emperor Gordian's daughter Gordiana, who was possessed and tortured by a demon. No one in the empire was able to cure her. The demon told the Emperor that only by the prayers of Tryphon would he leave Gordiana. Many men named Tryphon came to the palace but none could perform a healing miracle. Finally Saint Tryphon, who was 17 at the time, was found. Accompanied by the emperor's messengers he traveled to Rome. For three days before his arrival the demon fiercely tormented Gordiana, but when Saint Tryphon appeared the demon could not bear to look at him and left the girl. The Emperor Gordian was filled with joy and gave Saint Tryphon lavish gifts, which he distributed to the people of Lampsacus, again helping them.

Saint Tryphon continued to tend geese, pray to God and cure those who came to him.

After the death of Gordian, a new emperor, Decius, began ruling in 250 AD. Decius was not tolerant of Christians. In fact he persecuted them severely. Pagans reported Christians to their leaders and Christians suffered. A complaint was made against Saint Tryphon and he was taken to Nicea. There he was asked to change his beliefs. He would not and was tortured in a horrible manner. The last time Saint Tryphon was asked to renounce his faith he was warned that he would be beheaded if he did not. Saint Tryphon refused and was taken to the center of the city to be beaten. There he looked up to heaven and prayed to God that his soul be taken before he was beheaded. He died just before the soldiers beheaded him.

Several Christians wanted to bury Saint Tryphon in Nicea but the saint appeared in a dream and asked to be buried in Lampsacus. Many miracles happened at his grave. Later his body was **translated** to Constantinople and then to Rome.

In Russia, Saint Tryphon is regarded as the patron saint of birds and is often shown holding a falcon. The following story explains why and shows how the prayers of the faithful are answered by saints after their death.

One day, Tsar Ivan the Terrible went hunting with his falconer, Tryphon Patrikeiv. Carelessly the falconer Tryphon let the tsar's favorite falcon fly away. Tsar Ivan ordered Tryphon to find the bird in three days or be put to death. On the third day the falconer, being very tired, lay down to rest and prayed to his patron saint, the Martyr Tryphon, for help.



## Quote

...let Your holy angels lead me into Your beautiful dwelling place and make me an heir of Your desired kingdom. Receive my soul and harken to the prayer of all those who would offer sacrifices to You in my remembrance. Gaze upon them from Your holy dwelling place and grant them abundant and incorruptible gifts.

- The Prayer of Saint Tryphon before his death

## Date Born

Phrygia, a district of Asia Minor, in the village of Lampsacus (Campsada)

## Date Died

250 AD in Nicea

## Place Buried

first buried in Campsada; later moved to Constantinople, and then Rome

## Commemoration Date

February 1





In a dream Tryphon saw a young man on a white horse holding the tsar's falcon in his hand. The young man spoke to Tryphon the falconer, saying, "*Take the lost bird, return it to the tsar and do not worry.*" When he awakened, the falconer saw the bird in a pine tree. He returned the bird to the tsar. Out of gratefulness Tryphon Patrikeiv built a chapel on the spot where the saint had appeared. Later he built a church in Moscow.

In the Russian Orthodox Church Holy Martyr Saint Tryphon is known as the protector of Moscow.

## Troparion (Tone 4)

Your holy Martyr Tryphon, O Lord,  
Through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God.  
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons.  
Through his intercessions, save our souls!

## Kontakion (Tone 4)

By the power of the Trinity you destroyed polytheism to the ends of the earth,  
And you were honored by Christ, all-glorious Tryphon;  
Having conquered tyrants through Christ the Savior,  
You received your crown of martyrdom and the gift of divine healing, for you are invincible.

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## Special Thanks

Special thanks to Dr. Joseph McWherter, MD FACOG FACS, Fort Worth, TX  
for the use of the Icon of St. Tryphon from his private collection.

## Key Terms

**Unmercenary** - a name for a number of Christian saints who did not accept payment for good deeds; healers who tended to the sick free of charge

**Tryphe** - Greek for softness, delicacy. St. Tryphon's name is derived from this word

**Translate** - to remove from one place to another





# Journal Prompts

**St. Tryphon ✝ Martyr of Campsada near Apamea in Syria**

1. Saint Tryphon had a lot of time alone while tending geese. He used it by praying and thus received gifts of the Holy Spirit from God. In your daily life can you find times when you are alone and could fill them with prayer? What prayers would be good to use?

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2. Tryphon the Russian, prayed to his patron saint and was helped. Who is your patron saint and have you prayed to him/her for certain needs?

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3. How do you think you would react to someone trying to change your mind about what you believe?

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4. Saint Tryphon gives us an example of animals that need to be pushed away as well as those who are helpful. What do you think about relationships with animals?

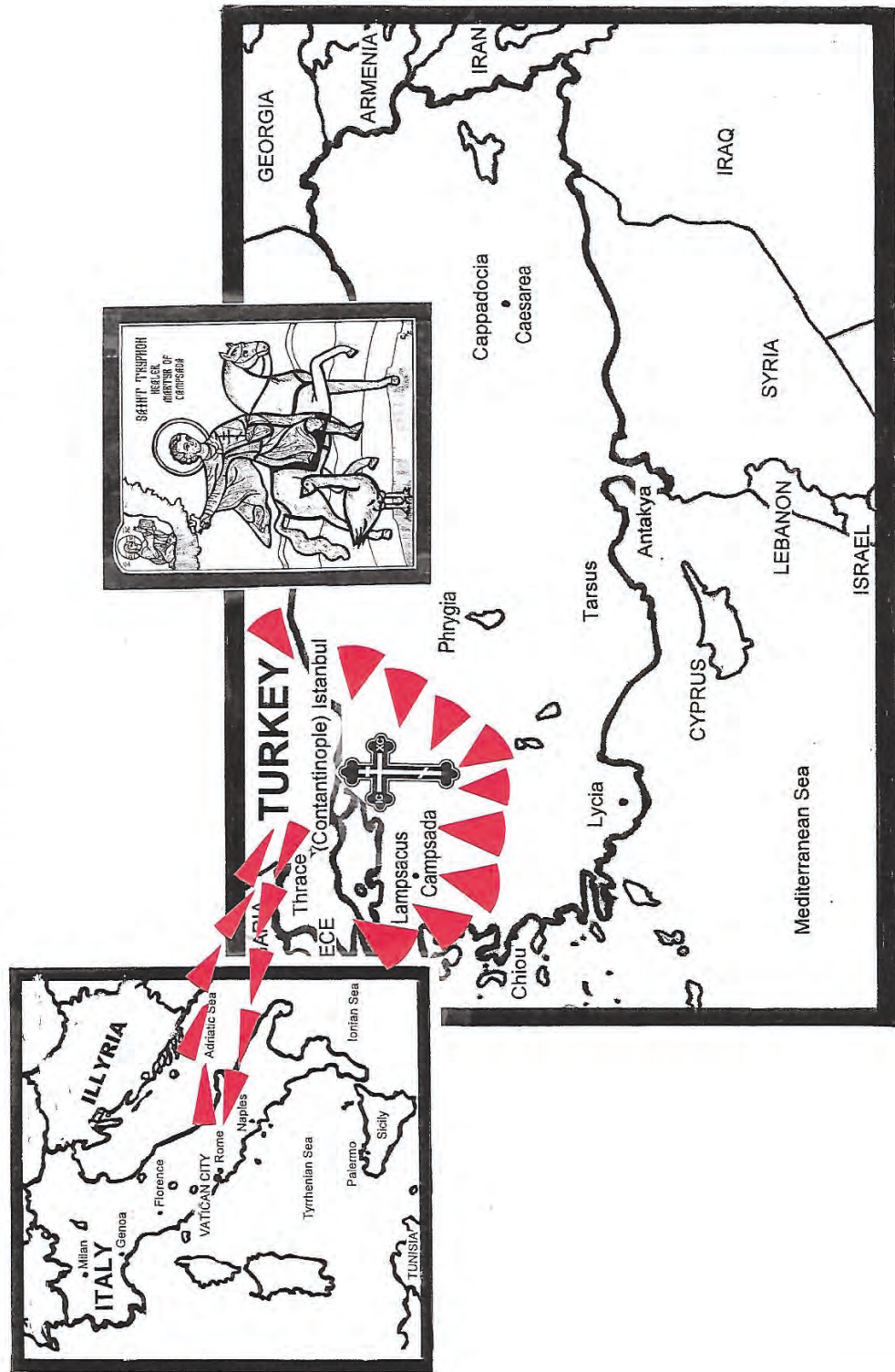
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. TRYPHON





# MAKE A WORD - CREATE A SENTENCE

St. Tryphon - Healer and Martyr of Campsada

*Unscramble the words in each of the boxes to reveal two facts about the life of St. Tryphon. Write the sentence on the lines below.*

niSta	phonyTr	edunicont	ot
dent	esege,	rayp	ot
odG	nad	recu	hoste
owh	meca	ot	mhi.

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nI	saRsiu,	tS.	ponThyr	si
daregred	sa	het	roptan	nsita
fo	ribsd	nad	si	fotne
whosn	noldgih	a	nalfoc	.

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# WHAT'S NEXT?

St. Tryphon - Healer and Martyr of Campsada

*Below you will see a bunch of jumbled letters. To solve this activity read the biography of St. Tryphon and each hint by the jumbled words below. Write down the letter of the alphabet that comes right after each letter that is shown in the jumbled word. Write this new word on the line.*

**Example: Rs. Sqxognm - St. Tryphon**

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

1. Fnqchzm - \_\_\_\_\_ An Emperor grateful to St. Tryphon
2. Kzlorzbtr - \_\_\_\_\_ Village where St. Tryphon was born
3. knbtrsr - \_\_\_\_\_ Devoured and ate all the crops in Lampsacus
4. Fnqchzmz - \_\_\_\_\_ Daughter of the Emperor
5. Bzlorzcz - \_\_\_\_\_ First burial location of St. Tryphon
6. Cdbhtr- \_\_\_\_\_ Emperor that couldn't tolerate Christians
7. Qnld - \_\_\_\_\_ Final burial place of St. Tryphon
8. sqxogd - \_\_\_\_\_ Greek meaning softness
9. Lnrbnv - \_\_\_\_\_ City in which St. Tryphon is known as the protector
10. sqzmrkzsd \_\_\_\_\_ To remove items, such as relics, from one place to another

# **BONUS ACTIVITY**

## **FORWARD and BACKWARDS**

Saints and the Animals Who Served Them

*Find the following words (forward and backwards) in the puzzle below:*

ARTEMON BRENDAN ELIJAH FLORUS GERASIMUS KEVIN LAURUS

MAMAS MARY MENAS SERAPHIM SERGIUS TRYPHON

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



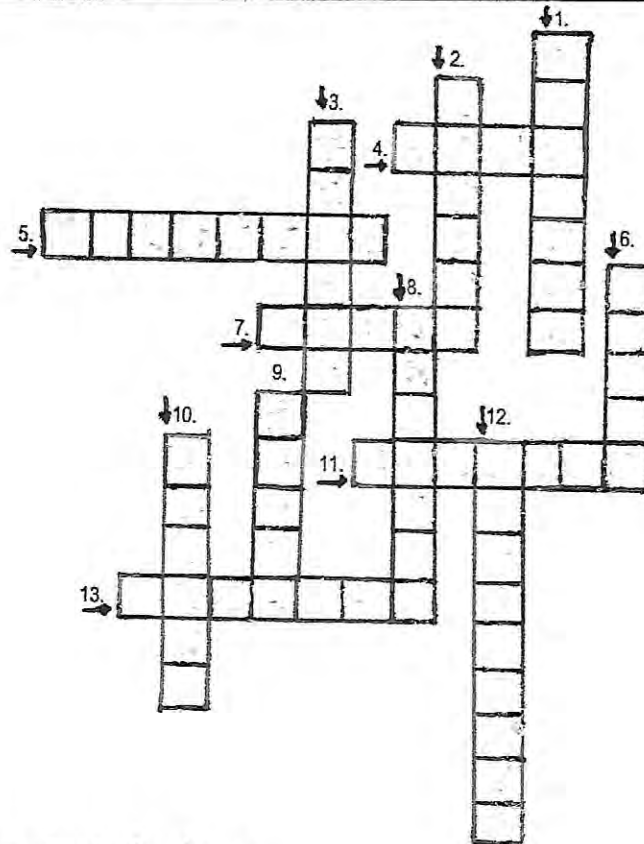
## BONUS ACTIVITY

### Rap-Up Crossword

Saints and the Animals Who Served Them

Use the 12 Saints' names below to complete the Rap-Up Crossword activity:

ARTEMON BRENDAN ELIJAH FLORUS GERASIMUS KEVIN LAURUS  
MAMAS MARY MENAS SERAPHIM SERGIUS TRYPHON



#### ACROSS:

4. Forty years praying in the desert
5. Fed a bear companion by hand
7. Fierce animals listened as he read the Psalms
11. Birds and animals kept him company
13. Celebrated a Liturgy on a whale's back

#### DOWN:

1. Answered a falconer's prayer to find the Tsar's falcon
2. He and his brother are patron saints of horses
3. God sent a raven to feed him
6. People and animals were healed at his burial place
8. A donkey and deer followed him like pets
9. A blackbird helped him learn to love people
10. Saint Michael helped him find his lost horses
12. Served by a lion whose pain he had healed

# Glossary

<b>Abbess</b>	A woman who is the head or superior of a group of nuns in a convent or women's monastery which is also a woman's only monastery. (In a convent women are called "sisters" and can go outside the confines of the buildings; in a monastery the women are called "nuns" and usually confine themselves to the monastery.)
<b>Abbot</b>	A ruling male monastic or person who is in charge of a monastery.
<b>Algeria</b>	A country in northern Africa.
<b>Artemis</b>	The goddess of the moon, wild animals, and hunting, in Greek mythology. She is the equivalent of the goddess Diana in Roman mythology.
<b>Articulate</b>	Able to speak well, to express ideas clearly and convincingly.
<b>Beer-sheba</b>	A town in the land of Judah, founded by the Israelites during the 10th century BC, after the land was conquered by King David. Saint Elijah took refuge in Beer-sheba when Jezebel ordered him killed (I Kings 19:3).
<b>Bethel</b>	An ancient city of central Palestine (the modern West Bank).
<b>Caesarea</b>	Ancient port city in Israel located between Tel Aviv and Haifa.
<b>Canonize</b>	To make a deceased person an officially recognized saint.
<b>Cappadocia</b>	A Roman province in the south central part of Asia Minor.
<b>Cauldron</b>	A large metal pot or kettle for cooking or boiling over an open fire. The word means "warm" or "hot bath".
<b>Cell</b>	A small room where a monk lives.
<b>Chariot</b>	Earliest and simplest type of horse carriage used in both war and peace. It was the chief vehicle and means of transportation of ancient people.
<b>Constantinople</b>	Byzantine capital city of Turkey (Asia Minor), now called Istanbul.
<b>Cornerstone</b>	Or "foundation stone". It is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation and is important as all other stones will be set in reference to this one, which determines the position of the entire structure. St. Paul referred to Jesus Christ as "the head of the corner".
<b>Curragh</b>	A long sailboat of about 36 feet, made of animal skin and used for sea travel in the 6th century.

<b>Drought</b>	An extended period of dry weather, especially one that could harm crops.
<b>Edict</b>	An official order given by someone in high authority, often a ruler.
<b>Elisha</b>	A prophet of the northern Kingdom of Israel who became a disciple and attendant to Saint Elijah.
<b>Emperor Diocletian</b>	A Roman emperor from 284 to 305.
<b>Falcons</b>	Any species of birds (raptors) that have skills to fly at high speed and change directions quickly They are trainable as birds of prey and effective hunters.
<b>Falconers</b>	The terms "falconer" and "falconry" now apply to all use of trained birds of prey to catch game. Historically, falconry was a popular sport and a status symbol among the nobles of medieval Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. It was largely restricted to the noble classes due to the commitment of time, money, and space.
<b>Famine</b>	A widespread scarcity of food.
<b>Fiery</b>	Easily excited or angered, like or suggestive of fire.
<b>Garden of Eden (Paradise)</b>	Described in the Bible's Book of Genesis as the place where Adam and his wife, Eve, lived after they were created by God. It is believed the garden was located at the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq, Africa, and the Persian Gulf.
<b>Gift of Prophecy</b>	God speaking to His people through another person (saint).
<b>God-bearing</b>	Used to describe some saints, it means having God's Holy Spirit in you so that your life and actions are guided by the Spirit. (Mary the Theotokos is sometimes called the "God- bearer", which means that she gave birth to the Son of God. She is the only person given this title.)
<b>Hermit</b>	One who lives alone to fast, pray, and become closer to and serve God.
<b>Hieromonk</b>	A monk who is also a priest.
<b>Historians</b>	Individuals who study and write about history and who are regarded as authorities.
<b>Holy Gospel</b>	The Gospel (in Greek, evangelion which means "glad tidings" or "good news") is the message of Christ. The life of the Church is centered in the four written canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, witnessing to the life of Jesus of Nazareth.
<b>Holy Scripture</b>	A collection of books written over multiple centuries by those inspired by God to do so. It is the primary witness to the Orthodox Christian faith, within Holy Tradition and often described as its highest point. It was written by the prophets and apostles in human language, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and collected, edited, and canonized by the Church.
<b>Illyria</b>	A region in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula inhabited by the Illyrians, a heterogeneous coalition of tribes.

<b>Immram</b>	Irish stories of sea adventures.
<b>Incorrupt</b>	When the body of a saint remains intact, avoiding the normal process of decomposition after death.
<b>Indulging</b>	Giving in to.
<b>Intercession</b>	Asking or praying on behalf of another; the verb is intercede.
<b>Ivan the Terrible</b>	Ivan IV Vasilyevich known in English as Ivan the Terrible was Grand Prince of Moscow from 1533 until his death. His long reign transformed Russia into a multiethnic and multiconfessional state spanning almost one billion acres. Ivan managed countless changes in the progression from a medieval nation state to an empire and emerging regional power, and became the first ruler to be crowned as Tsar of all Russia.
<b>Jericho</b>	An ancient city known for its many springs, located near the River Jordan in the West Bank of Palestine.
<b>Jezebel</b>	A princess who was the daughter of the King of Tyre (Phoenicia) and the wife of King Ahab of North Israel. She commanded great power behind the throne of her husband.
<b>Jordan River</b>	A 156 mile long river in western Asia flowing to the Dead Sea. It was where Jesus was baptized by Saint John the Baptist and is the modern day eastern border of the State of Israel.
<b>Kursk</b>	A city and the administrative center of Kursk Oblast, Russia, located at the confluence of the Kur, Tuskar, and Seym Rivers.
<b>Lake Mariut</b>	(Mariout, Maryut, Marect); an ancient land-locked sea south of the city of Alexandria, Egypt.
<b>Lampsacus</b>	(Also known as Campsada). A city located in Phrygia, a district of Asia Minor, now Modern Turkey.
<b>Laodicea</b>	An ancient city on the river Lycus in the Roman Province of Asia (now modern Syria). The church was established in the earliest period of Christianity and is best known for being the first of the seven churches addressed in the Book of Revelation (3:14-22).
<b>Leinster</b>	One of the eastern provinces of Ireland where Saint Kevin was born.
<b>Leprosy</b>	An especially horrible disease of the skin and organs, leaving people terribly scarred and full of sores. These people became outcasts, and had to live away from other people.
<b>Lustrous</b>	Radiant in character and reputation.
<b>King Ahab</b>	King of Israel in the 38th year of Asa, King of Judah. His 22-year reign is variously dated between 874 and 850 BC.
<b>Martyr</b>	A person who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty for witnessing to and refusing to renounce a religion.
<b>Miracle</b>	An extraordinary or extremely unusual event of divine intervention.
<b>Missionary</b>	A person(s) who goes out to explain about God to other people, usually in a foreign country.



<b>Monastic</b>	An unmarried man, known as a monk, or an unmarried woman, known as a sister, who live a life of seclusion away from the world we live in. Men and women can both be referred to as "monastics".
<b>Monastic cell</b>	A small room where a monk or a sister lives.
<b>Monastic community</b>	A group of monks or sisters who live together in a monastery and are dedicated to a life of prayer, meditation and good works. Monastery: a place where monks (or unmarried women, known as a sisters) live, pray and work.
<b>Monk</b>	A man who vows to serve God in a special way.
<b>Monophysite heresy</b>	The wrong teaching that the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ are one, rather than being two that are fully united but not mingled, as the Orthodox Church teaches.
<b>Mount Carmel</b>	A coastal mountain range in northern Israel stretching from the Red Sea to the southeast.
<b>Navigator</b>	One who uses tools to locate a destination, whether on land, sea, or in the air.
<b>Nicea</b>	(Nicaea); the site of two Ecumenical Councils of the early church. Located near the eastern end of the Sea of Marmara. Nicea attained commercial importance since it was the crossroads between Galatia and Phrygia. It was a rival of nearby Nicomedia.
<b>Novice</b>	The first level of monasticism, before lifelong vows are taken.
<b>Obadiah</b>	An advisor, or "master of the palace", to King Ahab.
<b>Old Testament</b>	The first of the two divisions of Holy Scripture. According to historians, the Old Testament was composed between the 5th century BC and the 2nd century BC. Traditionally the Old Testament is divided into the law books (the Pentateuch and historical books), the Psalms and other wisdom books, and the prophets because of what Christ said in Luke 24:44: "...Everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled."
<b>Ordination</b>	The act of being set aside to serve the Church in the capacity of a deacon or a priest.
<b>Orphan(s)</b>	A child or children who have no parents or relatives who can take care of them.
<b>Pagan</b>	One who is neither a Christian, a Jew or a Muslim; a non-believer or a worshiper of false gods.
<b>Pascha</b>	Also called Easter, is the feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. Pascha is a transliteration of the Greek word, which is itself a transliteration of the Hebrew pesach, both words meaning Passover.
<b>Persecution</b>	Oppression or harsh treatment, often because of religious beliefs
<b>Persevered</b>	Persisted and/or continued in something, even in the face of great obstacles

<b>Plagues (of locusts)</b>	The Ten Plagues of Egypt, or the Biblical Plagues, are the ten calamities imposed upon Egypt by Yahweh as recounted in the Book of Exodus, Chapters 7–12, to convince Pharaoh to let the poorly treated Israelite slaves go.
<b>Prefect</b>	The formal title of many fairly low-ranking to high-ranking military or civil officials in the Roman Empire.
<b>Prosphora</b>	A small loaf of raised bread that is used during the Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church.
<b>Polytheism</b>	The belief in multiple deities also usually assembled into a pantheon of gods and goddesses, along with their own mythologies and rituals.
<b>Possession</b>	Having some degree of control over something or someone else, for example a demon taking temporary control of a human body.
<b>Psalms</b>	(Also known as the Psalms of David) is the Old Testament book that contains hymns and poems traditionally ascribed to the Holy Prophet and King David, ancestor of our Lord Jesus Christ. Virtually every aspect of worship - praise, thanksgiving, penitence, intercession - is covered in the Psalter, another name for the Book of Psalms.
<b>Raven</b>	One of the birds of the crow family, having lustrous black plumage, a sharp pointed beak, and a loud, harsh call.
<b>Reader</b>	A minor order in the Orthodox Church. Readers are given the privilege of reading Scripture (except for the Gospel, which is read by the priest) during worship services.
<b>Relics</b>	The body or part of the body of a saint, esteemed and venerated because of its association with a Saint or Martyr.
<b>Renouncing</b>	The act of denying and rejecting something previously believed.
<b>Rome</b>	Capital city of the Roman Empire, which was the dominant power in Western Europe and lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea for over 700 years.
<b>Sanctity</b>	The quality of being holy or sacred
<b>Sarov</b>	A city located on the Sarovka River whose history dates back to the 12th – 13th century. It is known in early Russian history as one of the holy places of the Russian Orthodox Church, because of its monastery that gave Russia one of its greatest saints, Saint Seraphim.
<b>Second Coming</b>	The Second Coming of Christ, or the Parousia, is the anticipated return of Jesus from Heaven to Earth. This prophecy is found in the canonical gospels and is part of most Christian eschatologies.
<b>Seraphim</b>	A name which in Hebrew means "fiery" or "burning".
<b>Starets</b>	A Russian word meaning a spiritual elder.
<b>Stonemason</b>	A person who builds with stone.
<b>Theotokos</b>	The Greek title of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Its literal English translations include "God-bearer" and "the one who gives birth to God."

<b>Tishba in Gilead</b>	The birthplace of Saint Elijah, a place in Upper Galilee (mentioned in the deuterocanonical Book of Tobit, 1:2). The Jewish historian Josephus, however, supposes that Tishba was someplace in the land of Gilead. It has been identified by some with el-Ishtib, a place 22 miles due south of the Sea of Galilee, among the mountains of Gilead.
<b>Tonsure</b>	The act of cutting a portion of hair, as a sign of giving oneself to God, when one enters a new stage of religious life
<b>Translate</b>	To move from one place to another.
<b>Trident</b>	Also called a leister or gig, is a three-pronged spear. It is used for spear fishing and was also a military weapon. Tridents are featured widely in mythical, historical and modern culture.
<b>Tryphe</b>	Greek for "softness, delicacy." St. Tryphon's name is derived from this word. Tsar: (Tzar, Czar, Car, or Csar is a title used to designate certain European Slavic monarchs or supreme rulers. As a system of government, it is known as Tsarism. The term is from the Latin word Caesar, which meant "Emperor" in the European medieval sense of the term - a ruler who claims the same rank as a Roman emperor, with the approval of another emperor or a supreme ecclesiastical official (the Pope or the Ecumenical Patriarch).
<b>Tyrant</b>	One who illegally seizes and controls a governmental power. Tyrants were a group of individuals who took over many Greek poleis during the uprising of the middle classes in the 6th and 7th centuries BC, ousting the aristocratic governments.
<b>Unmercenary</b>	A title for a number of Christian saints who did not accept payment for good deeds; healers who tended to the sick free of charge.
<b>Vain</b>	Overly proud and self-absorbed
<b>Venomous</b>	Poisonous.
<b>Vision</b>	A dream or sign from God, usually with a message.
<b>Wonder-worker</b>	(Also "miracle-worker") is someone who is known for miracles that God, the source of all miracles and wonders, has worked through them.
<b>Zarephath</b>	(Sarepta) the town, said to be in the land of Sidon, in which Elijah was entertained by a widow after he left the brook Cherith (1 Kings 17:9). The Old Testament writer Obadiah refers to it as a Canaanite (probably meaning Phoenician) town (1:20)> It appears in the Greek form Sarepta in Luke 4:26 (KJV).

## FALL INTO PLACE

St. Artemon of Laodicea in Syria  
ANSWER KEY

The letters in each vertical column go into the squares directly below them, but not necessarily in the order in which they appear. Black squares signal the end of a word. When all the correct squares are filled, the sentence, read horizontally, will reveal a quote by St. Artemon which can be found when you read the biography. Write the quote on the lines below the grid.

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

" EVERY THING AND CREATURE IN THE WORLD CONFESSES THE  
NAME OF CHRIST AND WITH TRUE FAITH ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE."

## FIND A WORD

St. Artemon of Laodicea in Syria  
ANSWER KEY

Find the words, from the list below, that are in the story of St. Artemon.  
The words are diagonal, backward, forward, vertical, and horizontal.

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

LAODICEA	READER	CAESAREA	ARTEMON
MARCH	SAINT	PATRICIUS	SYRIA
ARTEMIS	CHRISTIAN	EDICT	CONFESSOR

## STRIKE OUT

Venerable, God-bearing Father, Navigator and Voyager,  
Brendan of Clonfert  
ANSWER KEY

1. STRIKE OUT the articles seen during the Divine Liturgy in Column A.
2. STRIKE OUT the Major Feast days of the Church in Column B.
3. STRIKE OUT the Books of the New Testament in Column C.
4. STRIKE OUT the Sacraments in Column D.
5. STRIKE OUT the Books of the Old Testament in Column E.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Cross	Ascension	One	Baptism	Exodus
2	Iconostas	Pentecost	Matthew	Of	Numbers
3	His	Nativity of Christ	Acts	Chrismation	Leviticus
4	Chalice	Dormition	Mark	Ordination	Friends
5	Spoon	Was	John	Matrimony	Genesis
6	Prophora	Annunciation	Actually	Confession	Judges
7	A	Elevation of the Cross	Luke	Whale	Ruth

Start in Row One and WRITE the words below which remain on the line which have not been crossed out.  
You will have created a sentence about the Life of St. Brendan.

One of his friends was actually a whale.

## WOVEN TOGETHER

Venerable, God-bearing Father, Navigator and Voyager,  
Brendan of Clonfert  
ANSWER KEY

Distribute the letters associated with each row, so they form places found in the biography of St. Brendan.

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. LAHEN  | SHANAKEEL    |
| 2. NICAL  | ATLANTIC     |
| 3. GEARI  | CIARRAIGHE   |
| 4. NONLE  | NEWFOUNDLAND |
| 5. TANSO  | SCOTLAND     |
| 6. SAINL  | ANTILLES     |
| 7. FORTC  | CLONFERT     |
| 8. NGERL  | GREENLAND    |
| 9. ASIAC  | CANARIES     |
| 10. NICUI | INCHIQUIN    |



## BREAK THE CODE

St. Elijah - Holy Glorious Prophet  
ANSWER KEY

Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet.  
Break the code, and reveal a fact about St. Elijah.  
(HINT - W=1; U=2; S=3; T=15; O=5; A=12)

\_S\_ \_T\_ \_E\_ \_L\_ \_I\_ \_J\_ \_A\_ \_H\_ \_W\_ \_A\_ \_S\_

3 15 10 19 8 20 12 21 1 12 3

\_O\_ \_N\_ \_E\_ \_O\_ \_F\_ \_T\_ \_W\_ \_O\_

5 18 10 5 22 15 1 5

\_O\_ \_L\_ \_D\_ \_T\_ \_E\_ \_S\_ \_T\_ \_A\_ \_M\_ \_E\_ \_N\_ \_T\_

5 19 23 15 10 3 15 12 6 10 18 15

\_S\_ \_A\_ \_I\_ \_N\_ \_T\_ \_S\_ \_W\_ \_H\_ \_O\_

3 12 8 18 15 3 1 21 5

\_A\_ \_P\_ \_P\_ \_E\_ \_A\_ \_R\_ \_E\_ \_D\_ \_W\_ \_I\_ \_T\_ \_H\_

12 17 17 10 12 16 10 23 1 8 15 21

\_J\_ \_E\_ \_S\_ \_U\_ \_S\_ \_A\_ \_T\_ \_H\_ \_I\_ \_S\_

20 10 3 2 3 12 15 21 8 3

\_T\_ \_R\_ \_A\_ \_N\_ \_S\_ \_F\_ \_I\_ \_G\_ \_U\_ \_R\_ \_A\_ \_T\_ \_I\_ \_O\_ \_N\_

15 16 12 18 3 22 8 9 2 16 12 15 8 5 18

## SCRAMBLED UP

St. Elijah - Holy Glorious Prophet  
ANSWER KEY

The list below contains scrambled words that can be found in the biography of St. Elijah. Unscramble the words to find them.

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. THERAZAPH | ZAREPHATH |
| 2. JELIHA    | ELIJAH    |
| 3. BINGHAKA  | KING AHAB |
| 4. LEJEEZB   | JEZEBEL   |
| 5. TRODHUG   | DROUGHT   |
| 6. ASHELI    | ELISHA    |
| 7. RIFYE     | FIERY     |
| 8. ABLA      | BAAL      |
| 9. DAJHU     | JUDAH     |
| 10. VANER    | RAVEN     |

## BACKWARDS PUZZLE

Saints Florus and Laurus - Martyrs of Illyria, Stonemasons  
ANSWER KEY

Each word below is written backwards. Write the letters in each word from right to left and reveal four facts about the lives of St. Florus and St. Laurus.

1. nI aissuR, stniaS surolF dna suruaL era deredisnoc

In Russia, Saints Florus and Laurus are considered  
ot eb eht nortap stnias fo sesroh.  
to be the patron saints of horses.

2. stniaS surolF dna suruaL erew owt srehtorb ohw

Saints Florus and Laurus were two brothers who  
devil dna deid rof tsirhC.  
lived and died for Christ.

3. yehT dekrow sa snosamenots.

They worked as stonemasons.

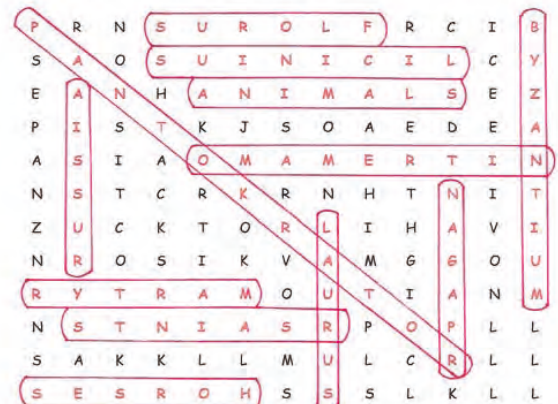
4. yehT erew nrob ni eht dnoces yrutnec ni elponitnatsnoC.

They were born in the second century in Constantinople.

## FIND A WORD

Saints Florus and Laurus - Martyrs of Illyria, Stonemasons  
ANSWER KEY

Find the words, from the list, that are in the story of St. Florus and Laurus. They are diagonal, backward, forward, vertical, and horizontal.



MARTYR LAURUS MAMERTIN	PAGAN HORSES RUSSIA	PANKOKRATOR BYZANTIUM SAINTS	FLORUS LICINIUS ANIMALS
------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------

## CRAZY CONSONANTS

St. Gerasimus - Venerable God-bearing Father of the Jordan  
ANSWER KEY

Unscramble the consonants and write them on the lines to reveal words associated with the life of St. Gerasimus. A hint is given for each one. Write the words on the lines below.

- m** **n** **a** **s** **t** **e** **r** **y** (n t s r m) - place of his burial.
- G** **o** **d** **-** **b** **e** **a** **r** **i** **n** **g** (d G g n r b)  
- having God's spirit in you, so you are guided by the Spirit.
- T** **u** **r** **k** **e** **y** (y T k r) - home of St. Gerasimus
- c** **e** **l** **l** (l c l) - place where a monk lives
- l** **i** **o** **n** (n l) - had a splinter in its paw.
- C** **h** **a** **l** **c** **e** **d** **o** **n** (d c l C h n) - location of the Fourth Ecumenical Council
- d** **o** **n** **k** **e** **y** (n d k y) - carried water to the monastery
- b** **a** **s** **k** **e** **t** **s** (t k b s s) - made by the monks
- M** **a** **r** **c** **h** (c r M h) - month of his commemoration
- m** **o** **n** **a** **s** **t** **i** **c** **c** **o** **m** **m** **u** **n** **i** **t** **y** (c n m s t t m c n m)  
- a group of monks living together in a monastery.

- monastery
- God-bearing
- Turkey
- cell
- lion
- Chalcedon
- donkey
- baskets
- March
- monastic community

## STRIKE OUT

St. Gerasimus - Venerable God-bearing Father of the Jordan  
ANSWER KEY

- Place an X through all of the people associated with a monastery.
- Place an X through all church ranks of men who are ordained or consecrated.
- Place an X through all of the services offered in the church.

When you are finished, you will reveal a statement that was very important in the life of St. Gerasimus. Write the sentence on the lines below the puzzle.

Divine Liturgy	Jordanes	patriarch	abbot	was
deacon	the	monk	special	priest
name	hieromonk	given	Matins	to
bishop	the	Vespers	lion	novice
that	Parastas	lived	monk	nun
at	metropolitan	the	Hours	monastery.

Jordanes was the special name given to the lion that lived at the monastery.

## GRIDLOCK

St. Kevin - Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland  
ANSWER KEY

For this puzzle, fill in the blank spaces by finding the correct letters in the grid. To help get you started, the first letter is given. When you finish, you will reveal a fact about the life of St. Kevin.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	W	I	B	E	T	Y
B	M	H	D	K	A	N
C	S	O	F	V	.	R

H \_ E \_ W \_ A \_ S \_ T \_ H \_ E \_  
 B2 A4 A1 B5 C1 A5 B2 A4  
 F \_ I \_ R \_ S \_ T \_ O \_ N \_ E \_  
 C3 A2 C6 C1 A5 C2 B6 A4  
 I \_ N \_ H \_ I \_ S \_ T \_ O \_ R \_ Y \_  
 A2 B6 B2 A2 C1 A5 C2 C6 A6  
 T \_ O \_ B \_ E \_ N \_ A \_ M \_ E \_ D \_  
 A5 C2 A3 A4 B6 B5 B1 A4 B3  
 K \_ E \_ V \_ I \_ N \_ \_ \_  
 B4 A4 C4 A2 B6 C5

## UNSCRAMBLE IT

St. Kevin - Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland  
ANSWER KEY

Unscramble the missing word in each sentence to reveal a statement about St. Kevin. Write the word on the line.

- St. Kevin was born in the Province of **Leinster**. (telsiner)
- Coengen** is the name for Kevin in the Irish language. (moceneg)
- When he was seven, his parents sent him to a **monastery** to learn the Christian Faith (yeamrastno)
- His parents were noble **Christians**. (saintrisch)
- St. Kevin was a great worker of **miracles**. (simclear)
- During Great Lent, a **blackbird** fed him nuts and berries. (ridcalbkb)
- Kevin spent seven years as a **hermit**. (timerh)
- We celebrate St. Kevin's memory on **June** 3. (neju)
- He is a wonder worker in the country of **Ireland**. (direnal)
- At a monastery in the Valley of **Glendalough**, Kevin became the abbot. (goalneldhug)
- A **pagan** is someone that often worships multiple gods. (nagap)
- If you are in charge of a men's monastery, you are an **abbot**. (babto)
- Dima** asked Kevin to teach him about Jesus Christ. (modi)
- Many of Kevin's miracles involved birds and **animals**. (minalsa)

### SCRAMBLED UP

St. Mamas - Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia  
ANSWER KEY

Unscramble the words to identify facts about St. Mamas

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. sainthirC    | Christian   |
| 2. aCesaera     | Caesarea    |
| 3. hronap       | orphan      |
| 4. 2breepSmet   | September 2 |
| 5. rmmtrdoya    | martyrdom   |
| 6. maiAm        | Ammia       |
| 7. lusiuAer     | Aurelius    |
| 8. naRfiu       | Rufina      |
| 9. lgoaiaphaPna | Paphlagonia |
| 10. teohokoTs   | Theotokos   |

### WORD SEARCH

St. Mamas - Martyr of Caesarea in Cappadocia  
ANSWER KEY

FIND THE WORDS RELATED TO THE LIFE OF ST. MAMAS



ANGEL	PERSECUTION	TEENAGER
ARTICULATE	RENOUNCING	TRIDENT
MAMAS	STRENGTH	WILD BEASTS
	ORPHAN	

### ALL SCRAMBLED UP

St. Mary of Egypt  
ANSWER KEY

Unscramble the letters to identify words related to the life of St. Mary of Egypt.  
All the words can be found in the biographical information for St. Mary.

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. lindgnugi   | indulging    |
| 2. eweltv      | twelve       |
| 3. blemhu      | humble       |
| 4. debtineo    | obedient     |
| 5. randoreviJR | River Jordan |
| 6. mossazi     | Zossima      |
| 7. laPnestin   | Palestine    |
| 8. taBstip     | Baptist      |
| 9. lApir       | April        |
| 10. tpyEg      | Egypt        |

### FIND THE VOWELS

St. Mary of Egypt  
ANSWER KEY

Place the missing vowels in each of the words. Then write the completed words on the lines below. You will create two sentences about the life of St. Mary of Egypt.  
A E I O U

Humble	and	obedient	.
Mary	from	Egypt	who
was	a	great	sinner
became	a	great	saint.

Humble and obedient, Mary from Egypt  
who was a great sinner became a great saint.

She	is	commemorated	on	April
1,	and	the	fifth	Sunday
of	Great	Lent.		

She is commemorated on April 1,  
and the fifth Sunday of Great Lent.

### ADD OR SUBTRACT

St. Menas - Holy, Glorious, Right-victorious Martyr  
and Wonderworker of Egypt  
**ANSWER KEY**

*Add or Subtract to find one of the miracles of St. Menas*

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 M P E R O R Z I N O N S  
C+2 O-2 S-3 A+4 T-2 L+3 N+4 V+4 J-1 L+2 M+2 K+3 Q+2

D A U G H T E R  
A+3 F-5 W-2 D+3 L-4 O+5 G-2 O+3

T R A V E L E D T O T H E  
P+4 S-1 F-5 W-1 C+2 N-2 D+1 J-6 V-2 K+4 Q+3 J-2 H-3

B U R I A L S I T E O F  
A+1 R+3 R-0 F+3 G-6 M-1 O+4 H+1 Q+3 C+2 K+4 D+2

S T M E N A S B A T H E D  
Q+2 P+4 K+2 C+2 K+3 B-1 L+7 A+1 B-1 R+2 F+2 C+2 B+2

I N T H E W E L L A N D  
L-3 K+3 R+2 F+2 C+2 Z-3 C+2 J+2 N-2 C-2 K+3 B+2

W A S C U R E D O F  
V+1 C-2 Q+2 B+1 S+2 O+3 B+3 A+3 L+3 C+3

L E P R O S Y  
J+2 C+2 M+3 P+2 L+3 Q+2 W+2

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

St. Menas - Holy, Glorious, Right-victorious Martyr and Wonderworker of Egypt  
**ANSWER KEY**

*Unscramble the words in the Word Bank, then use them to fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.*

- The birthplace of St. Menas was **NICEOUS**.
- At the ages of **FIFTEEN** St. Menas joined the army.
- St. Menas was saved by **CAMELS**.
- His burial place was near the city of **ALEXANDRIA**.
- In 304 A.D. **PYRRHUS** ordered the beheading of St. Menas.
- EUPHEMIA**, the mother of St. Menas, prayed before the icon of the Theotokos to have a child.
- St. Menas was a member of the **EGYPTIAN** army.
- Patriarch **ATHANASIOS** had a vision that St. Menas would be buried in a desert west of Alexandria.
- St. Menas was known as the **MIRACLE- MAKER**.
- EUDOXIOS**, father of St. Menas, was a ruler in the Egyptian Army.

**MIRACLE-MAKER** **PYRRHUS** **NICEOUS** **CAMELS**  
**ATHANASIOS** **EUPHEMIA** **EUDOXIOS** **FIFTEEN**  
**ALEXANDRIA** **EGYPTIAN**

### THE CONSONANT IS MISSING

St. Seraphim of Sarov - Venerable Wonder-worker  
**ANSWER KEY**

*Fill in the Missing Consonants to identify terms related to St. Seraphim. You will find all the words you need when you read the story of St. Seraphim's life.*

- KURSK**
- PROKHOR**
- TSAR NICHOLAS**
- NOVICE**
- STARETS**
- SERAPHIM**
- DIVEYEVO**
- HIEROMONK**
- BEAR**
- MOTHER OF GOD**

### WORD SUDOKU

St. Seraphim of Sarov - Venerable Wonder-worker  
**ANSWER KEY/SOLUTION**

*The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct words.*

- There are three very simple constraints to follow in a 6 by 6 square Sudoku game:
- Every ROW of 6 words must include all 6 words in any order.
  - Every COLUMN of 6 words must include all 6 words in any order.
  - Every 3 by 2 SUBSECTION of the 6 by 6 square must include all 6 words.

Prokhor	Kursk	Novice	Sarov	Seraphim	Canonization
Sarov	Seraphim	Canonization	Novice	Kursk	Prokhor
Novice	Prokhor	Kursk	Canonization	Sarov	Seraphim
Seraphim	Canonization	Sarov	Prokhor	Novice	Kursk
Canonization	Novice	Seraphim	Kursk	Prokhor	Sarov
Kursk	Sarov	Prokhor	Seraphim	Canonization	Novice



## FINISH THE SENTENCE

St. Sergius - Venerable Abbot and Wonder-worker of Radonezh  
ANSWER KEY

Use the words from the box below to complete each sentence about the life of St. Sergius. Write the word on each line.

Bartholomew	tonsured	Stephen	God	Theotokos
Radonezh	bears	canonized	chapel	September

- By cutting a portion of his hair, Sergius was tonsured a monk.
- Sergius was canonized a saint by the Russian Orthodox Church.
- When St. Sergius was born, his name was Bartholomew.
- He lived in a forest near Radonezh.
- Stephen was the name of one of his brothers.
- St. Sergius shared his food with bears.
- God gave St. Sergius the ability to read.
- He is remembered (commemorated) on September 25.
- St. Sergius and his brother built a chapel in the forest.
- The Theotokos visited St. Sergius and told him his monasteries would be protected.

## FROM A TO W

St. Sergius - Venerable Abbot and Wonder-worker of Radonezh  
ANSWER KEY

Read the biography of St. Sergius to find the words to complete the activity. Use the letters from the box below to fill in the missing letter and complete the words in the puzzle. Write the words on the lines below. The first one is done for you.

A C E L M N P R T W

1.	A	F	G	S	A	N	C	T	I	F	Y	I	X	M	E	U
2.	M	R	U	S	S	I	A	C	E	W	E	R	E	T	I	M
3.	C	A	N	I	D	O	P	R	O	S	P	H	O	R	A	T
4.	P	R	E	S	T	O	N	S	U	R	E	M	A	N	Y	S
5.	M	A	K	E	R	S	E	R	G	I	U	S	B	W	O	V
6.	V	M	O	S	C	O	W	R	I	T	E	S	I	N	K	R
7.	Y	O	C	Y	R	I	L	U	T	Q	M	A	N	T	E	E
8.	L	A	Y	E	R	N	M	A	R	Y	B	E	D	A	X	W
9.	B	N	P	E	T	E	R	S	H	I	P	C	O	T	Q	Y
10.	C	A	R	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	S	T

- SANCTIFY
- RUSSIA
- PROSPHORA
- TONSURE
- SERGIUS
- MOSCOW
- CYRIL
- MARY
- PETER
- BARTHOLOMEW

## WHAT'S NEXT?

St. Tryphon - Healer and Martyr of Campsada  
ANSWER KEY

Below you will see a bunch of jumbled letters. To solve this activity read the biography of St. Tryphon and each hint by the jumbled words below. Write down the letter of the alphabet that comes right after each letter that is shown in the jumbled word. Write this new word on the line.  
Example: Rs. Sqxognm - St. Tryphon

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

- Fngchzm - Gordian - An Emperor grateful to St. Tryphon
- Kzlorzbt - Lampsacus - Village where St. Tryphon was born
- knbtst - locusts - Devoured and ate all the crops in Lampsacus
- Fngchzm - Gordiana - Daughter of the Emperor
- Bzlorzcz - Campsada - First burial location of St. Tryphon
- Cdbhtr - Decius - Emperor that couldn't tolerate Christians
- Qnld - Rome - Final burial place of St. Tryphon
- sqxogd - tryphe - Greek meaning softness
- Lnrnv - Moscow - City in which St. Tryphon is known as the protector
- sqzmrkzsd - translate - To remove items, such as relics, from one place to another

## MAKE A WORD - CREATE A SENTENCE

St. Tryphon - Healer and Martyr of Campsada  
ANSWER KEY

Unscramble the words in each of the boxes to reveal two facts about the life of St. Tryphon. Write the sentence on the lines below.

Saint	Tryphon	continued	to
tend	geese,	pray	to
God	and	cure	those
who	came	to	him.

*Saint Tryphon continued to tend geese, pray to God and cure those who came to him.*

In	Russia,	St.	Tryphon	is
regarded	as	the	patron	saint
of	birds	and	is	often
shown	holding	a	falcon	.

*In Russia, St. Tryphon is regarded as the patron saint of birds and is often shown holding a falcon.*

## BONUS ACTIVITY KEYS

### FORWARD and BACKWARDS

Saints and the Animals Who Served Them

ANSWER KEY

*Find the following words (forward and backwards) in the puzzle below:*  
 ARTEMON BRENDAN ELIJAH FLORUS GERASIMUS KEVIN LAURUS  
 MAMAS MARY MENAS SERAPHIM SERGIUS TRYPHON

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

### Rap-Up Crossword

Saints and the Animals Who Served Them

ANSWER KEY

*Use the 12 Saints' names below to complete the Rap-Up Crossword activity:*  
 ARTEMON BRENDAN ELIJAH FLORUS GERASIMUS KEVIN LAURUS  
 MAMAS MARY MENAS SERAPHIM SERGIUS TRYPHON



#### ACROSS:

4. Forty years praying in the desert
5. Fed a bear companion by hand
7. Fierce animals listened as he read the Psalms
11. Birds and animals kept him company
13. Celebrated a Liturgy on a whale's back

#### DOWN:

1. Answered a falconer's prayer to find the Tsar's falcon
2. He and his brother are patron saints of horses
3. God sent a raven to feed him
6. People and animals were healed at his burial place
8. A donkey and deer followed him like pets
9. A blackbird helped him learn to love people
10. Saint Michael helped him find his lost horses
12. Served by a lion whose pain he had healed