

OCTOBER 2021

ST. XENIA'S CHURCH



SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Let the little children come to Me" - Mark 10:14

# Feasts



The Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God  
Thursday - 14th

St. Andronicus of Egypt  
Archbishop Andronik's namesday on Friday - 22nd



Psalm 9: 10-11

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.



# Happy Namesday



Roman W  
October 14th



Cyprian W  
October 15th



Pelagia  
October 21st



Zlata  
October 26th



Luca W  
October 31st



"The 3rd Day of Creation"  
by Amelia Westberg

St. Abigail of Ireland once drove away invaders from attacking her village by sending her beloved bees to swarm the invaders.

St. Gerasimus helped a lion who had a large thorn in his paw. The lion then became his loyal servant, hauling water for the monastery and following him everywhere. St. Zosimas also had the help of a lion who, by his request dug a grave in the desert to bury St. Mary of Egypt.

The animals of the forest loved visiting St. Seraphim of Sarov. A bear he called Misha, would often serve him, running errands for him and his visitors.

Saints & their Animals





# My Faith

## The Veneration of Saints:

Saints are venerated in our church. Although, we only worship God alone - we remember, honour, and even pray to those who lived a God-pleasing life. You can ask any saint to pray for you.

We venerate the saints by:

- bowing before and kissing their icons or relics
- singing special hymns to them
- celebrate their feast days
- asking for their prayers (also called intercessions)
- following their example of holy living

Saints often have special abilities. For example **St. Panteleimon** is called the healer of body and soul so you could ask him to pray for healing of sickness. **St. Xenia** is often prayed to for help in finding work or a home. **St. Nicholas** is prayed to for safe travels and protection from fire. No matter which saint you pray to, any one of them can help you when you are feeling challenged in your faith.

Most Orthodox children are named after a saint and when you are baptized this saint becomes **your patron saint**. You can ask your saint to pray for you when you need comfort, when you're afraid, or to help you understand Jesus' teachings.



What makes a Saint?

Oct 29th



## St. Longinus

Longinus and his soldiers stood watch around Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. They were eye-witnesses of the final moments of life of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the sky turned dark and the earth shook, the soul of Longinus was jolted. He then believed in Christ and before everyone confessed that, "in truth – this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27: 54). He was the soldier who with a spear pierced the side of the Crucified Saviour, and from the outflowing of blood and water received healing from an eye affliction. After the Burial of Christ, Longinus with his soldiers stood watch at the Sepulchre of the Lord. The Jews tried to persuade them to bear false witness that Christ's disciples had stolen the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his soldiers refused to be bribed. The soldiers accepted Baptism from the apostles and they set out preaching about Christ Jesus in Cappadocia. Their fiery words swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began to spread quickly in the city and the surrounding villages. Having learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to dispatch a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his friends. When the soldiers arrived to Cappadocia; Longinus himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers told him the purpose of their arrival, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man they were seeking! Longinus and his friends identified themselves and boldly asked the surprised soldiers to do the military duty they came to do. The soldiers wanted to set the saints free and advised them to flee, but the saints refused for the chance to become martyrs for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried there where the saints made their final witness.

# My Church

## What is a saint?

The word saint means holy. Saints are people who tried with all their might to live holy lives. We as humans can never be perfectly holy-only God is truly holy, but with the gift of the Holy Spirit we can be more like the Saints.

A church does not make a saint, a church recognizes a saint. When a person has lived in the image of God then that person could be considered for canonization (glorification). There is an official process of recognizing that someone was a saint during their life time.

Saints live all sorts of lives! Some are monks or nuns, some are mothers or fathers, some bishops or even farmers. All of them have something in common; through their speech, deeds, and teachings they upheld the Orthodox Christian Faith given to the apostles.

Some saints died peacefully (prepodobni) and others were killed for their faith (martyrs).

God uses many, many different people in many different ways to be examples for us, to help us live a Godly life filled with the Holy Spirit.



There are North American saints too!

**St. Brendan the Navigator (6th C!)** was an Irish monk and the first Orthodox Christian to step foot in Canada/NA

**St. Herman of Alaska** in 1793 sailed from Valaam to Alaska to minister to the Inuit

**St. John Maximovitch (d. 1966)** served in China, France, and NA. He often walked barefoot in the cold and is known for his many miracles, orphanages, and gathering of sick and starving children out of the dark slums of Shanghai

Did You Know?