

STROGANOV MINYEIAS

FEBRUARY

Side A



Row 1

February 1: Saint Tryphon received fame when he cast an evil spirit from the daughter of the Roman emperor Gordian in the 3rd century. Emperor Decius came to power and ordered the saint to be arrested and tortured. He was then beheaded in the city of Nicea in the year 250.

February 2: The Presentation of Christ. Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Jerusalem Temple in order to present a lamb or pigeon as a purification sacrifice. They were met by Saint Simeon, the God-Receiver, and Saint Anna the Prophetess. This day is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church; it is also the day to commemorate the icon of the Theotokos known as the "Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy."

February 3: Saint Symeon the God-Receiver was translating a book and came across a line he thought was a mistake. The line read "a virgin shall conceive in the womb;" he wanted to change it to "woman." When he attempted to fix the supposed mistake, an angel held his hand back and told him that it was not a mistake: he would witness the miracle before his death. He lived to see the day in which he bore God in his hands.

February 3: Saint Anna the Prophetess was at the temple when Jesus arrived with Theotokos and Saint Joseph. She witnessed Saint Simeon hold the Infant Child and bless Him.

February 3: Saint Roman, Prince of Uglich, was born on October 1, 1235. Upon the death of his father and brother, he took governance of Uglich at the age of 26, where he established fifteen churches and a home for the poor. He died on February 3, 1285, and was buried in the Church of the Transfiguration in Uglich.

February 4: Saint Isidore of Pelusium lived during the 4th and 5th centuries. He devoted himself to Christian preaching after that of Saint John Chrysostom. He wrote close to 10,000 letters to those who asked for his counseling, of which many have survived. He died at an old age in the year 436.

February 4: Saint George, Prince of Vladimir, was born in the year 1189 and assumed the throne of Vladimir in 1212. He was most noted for his military valor and piety. In 1237 the Tatars and the Russian Princes met in the Battle of Sita River. George died in battle on March 4 1238 and the Tartars were victorious.

February 4: Saint Cyril, Wonderworker of Novoezersk is said to have cried out “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth” from his Mother’s Womb. At the age of 15, he left his to join the Monastery at the Pskov Caves where he was later joined by his father. Saint Cyril left the monastery when his father died and spent twenty years in the wilderness surviving on roots and berries. Saint Cyril became well known as an ascetic and as a wonderworker. He settled along the shores of the White lake where he built two small churches and some cells for monks who came to live alongside him.

February 5: Unknown Saint – This Bishop saint is labeled as Saint Abraham the Studite but there is not saint by that name and title celebrated by the Orthodox Church. There is Saint Abramius of Assyria who is celebrated on February 4 who was a Christian in Persia during the reign of Emperor Sapor II and was martyred for his faith.

February 5: Saint Nicholas of Studite is celebrated on February 4; it is unclear why his is pictured on February 5 here. He lived during the 9th century and studied at the Studite monastery under Saints Theophanes and Theodore until the age of 16, when he became a monk. He served as head of the monastery for many years before resigning in protest due to the actions of the corrupt Emperor Bardas. He was later arrested and spent two years as a prisoner within the Studite Monastery until the emperor Basil I set him free.

February 5: Saint Agatha of Palermo was a 15-year old Christian girl who was imprisoned for her faith during the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251). The city Prefect, Quintianus, first bribed and then tortured the Saint in an attempt to convert her back to Paganism. There was a large earthquake while Saint Agatha was being publically punished. Two of Quintianus’s advisors were killed and the crowd clamored for her release. In fear of revolt, they threw Saint Agatha back in prison, where she spent the rest of her life.

February 5: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Saint Abraham but there is not saint by that name celebrated on February 5th. There is a Saint Abraham of Vologda who is celebrated on February 4. He was a 15th century ascetic monk who established a monastery along the River Pechenga.



Row 2:

February 6: Saint Bucolos, Bishop of Smyrna, was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, and became the first Bishop of Smyrna. During his lifetime, he converted many pagans to Christianity. He died between 100 and 105. Over his grave grew a tree, which was said to heal the sick.

February 6: Unknown Saint – This bishop is labeled as Saint James, Bishop of Rostov, who is celebrated on November 27 and May 23. If this is meant to be Saint James he could be depicted here in error. Sixteenth century copies of Saint James’ liturgy service show that writings on the Saint borrowed heavily from the Service to Saint Bucolus who is celebrated on February 6th. Saint James was Bishop of Rostov in

the 14th century but was exiled after defending a condemned woman. He cited John 8:7 in which Christ called for the blameless to case the first stone.

February 7: Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lamsacus, attended church services diligently and learned the Holy Scriptures. From the age of eighteen, he healed the sick, cast out demons, and worked other miracles. In 325, he was declared bishop of Lamsacus, where he razed a pagan temple and build a Christian church on the land.

February 7: Luke of Hellas worked hard from a young age, giving his food and clothing to the poor. He once gave away all the seeds he needed to plant the fields. When Saint Luke became a monk, he traveled to different monasteries, sometimes living as a hermit, studying and practicing the ascetic lifestyle. At the monastery dedicated to Great Martyr Barbara, he performed many miracles, healing sicknesses of soul and body. Saint Luke died on February 7, 946, and a church was built over his tomb.

February 8: Saint Theodore Stratelates was appointed military commander following his defeat of a serpent that had devoured many people and animals. He would often preach to those under his command and converted many soldiers to Christianity. Under the reign of a new emperor, Saint Theodore was arrested and subjected to tortures. He was then crucified. Saint Theodore was given enough strength to remove himself from the cross and his wounds were healed. He then openly accepted execution from the emperor and kneeled beneath the blade that would behead him. This occurred on February 8, 319.

February 8: Prophet Zachariah was the eleventh of the Twelve Minor Prophets. The Book of the Prophet Zachariah is believed to contain details about the coming of the Messiah, the betrayal of the Lord for thirty pieces of silver and the purchase of the potter's field with them, and the eclipse of the sun at the time of the Crucifixion. He died in about 520 BCE in a village near Eleutheropolis.

February 9: Saint Nicephorus was a 3rd century Christian who was close friends with presbyter named Saprificus until the two argued and became estranged. Nicephorus went many times to his friend to ask for forgiveness but Saprificus stubbornly refused. One day Saprificus was arrested for practicing Christianity and Nicephorus again implored him to forgive and thus part in friendship. Saprificus again refused his former friend, renounced his faith, and agreed to make sacrifices to the Pagan gods. Nicephorus confessed his faith and asked to be executed in the place of Saprificus and so was beheaded.

February 9: Saint Marcellus, Bishop of Sicily, was a disciple of the holy Apostle Peter who appointed him to the role of bishop. He was arrested and executed with several others for the crime of preaching Christianity.

February 10: Saint Charalampus, Bishop of Magnesia, spread faith until he was arrested and brought to military commander Lucius. Lucius ordered the bishop be tortured despite his old age. The Saint would not succumb and so the soldiers repented and converted to Christianity. Lucius beheaded the soldiers and three women who were present and began to torture Charalampus himself. However, all torturers rebounded upon Lucius until he relented and begged the martyr for mercy. Charalampus was brought before the emperor where he withstood many torments and worked many miracles before being beheaded in the year 202.

February 11: Saint Blaise of Sebaste lived during the reign of Emperors Diocletian and Licinius, when Christians were persecuted. The bishop encouraged his flock to hide in the mountains, as that was what he did. Saint Blaise was captured and ordered to be thrown into a lake, but his body did not sink; rather, he stood on the water. He was beheaded, along with his two sons, in the year 316.

February 11: Saint Demetrius of Priluki was born in to a wealthy Russian family in the 14th century. He became a monk and studied under Saint Sergius of Radonez before traveling to Vologda with his Disciple Pachomius. There they built a church dedicated to the Resurrection of Christ. They wished to build a monastery as well but the local village protested. Demetrius and Pachomius traveled north and there founded the Saint Nicholas cenobitic monastery in 1371. The saint died on February 11, 1392, and his relics were said to have worked many miracles.

February 11: Saint Prince Vsevolod of Pskov raised many churches. Among them was the cathedral of the Great Martyr George and the church of Saint John the Forerunner. He only served as prince for a year and died at the young age of 46 in the year 1138. In the year 1192, his relics were uncovered and transferred to the Trinity cathedral, in which a chapel was consecrated in his honor.



Row 3

February 12: Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch, was a 4th century Bishop who aided Emperor Constantius in combatting the movement known as the Arian heresy. When the emperor accepted the position of the Arians, Saint Meletius was stripped of his title and exiled. Meletius was reinstated and participated in the Second Ecumenical Council in 381 but died before it ended.

February 12: Saint Empress Theodora was the wife of the Byzantine emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast. After the death of her husband, she took control, since her son was still a minor. She attended a council and reinstated the veneration of icons while denouncing iconoclasts. When her son was of age, she retired the throne and spent the following eight years in a monastery where she devoted her life to ascetic struggles. She died in the year 867. According to Museum sources Saint Theodora is celebrated on February 11. It is unclear why she is pictured on February 12 on this set.

February 12: Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow, was born in Moscow 1292 to Theodore Byakont of the Chernigov line. At the age of twelve, he spent much time in quiet contemplation and at 15 became a monk at the Theophany Monastery in Moscow. He became Bishop of Vladimir in 1350 and succeeded Metropolitan Theognostus in 1354. In 1361 he founded a monastery in Moscow dedicated to the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-by-Hands. He also founded the Chudov monastery in Moscow and saw to it that many ancient monasteries were restored.

February 12: The Wake of Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow. Saint Alexis died at the age of 78 on February 12, 1378 and was buried in the Chudov monastery. His relics were uncovered 50 years later and were said to have worked miracles.

February 13: Saint Anthony, Archbishop of Constantinople was born in about 829. At the age of twelve, he entered a monastery and spent his nights in prayer, living a strict ascetic life. As time progressed, he was eventually ordained into holy priesthood. Raised to the Patriarchal throne at Constantinople in 893, with the assistance of Leo the Wise, Saint Anthony was able to encourage piety in the church and built a monastery over the relics of Saint Kallia. He died in the year 895.

February 13: Saint Martinian [written Markian] went to live in the wilderness at the age of eighteen. He stayed there in silence for twenty five years. One day a woman wagered with some townspeople that she could seduce the saint. The saint allowed her to stay the night for shelter, and in the morning he asked her to leave. When she would not leave, he lit a fire and stepped into it saying "You want me to burn with temptation, and want to lead me into the fires of Hell. I will not let you. Instead, I will burn for my virginity and save my soul."

February 13: Saint Simeon the Myrrh-Gusher, King of Serbia, lived during the 12th century. He united a large portion of the Serbian lands and strove for a political independence from the Byzantine Empire. When he was eighty, he went to Mount Athos with his son, and they both restored the desolate Hilander monastery, where monks began to gather for prayer. Saint Simeon died on February 13, 1200, and his relics were said to permeate myrrh.

February 14: Saint Auxentius, of Bithynia, was a 5th century Syrian serving in the court of Emperor Theodosius. He later became a monk and lived as a hermit on Mount Oxia where he became known as a healer and wonderworker.

February 14: Saint Cyril Equal of the Apostles received the finest education and was raised with the son of the emperor from the age of 14. He was sent with his brother to spread Christianity in the year 857 and died at the age of 42 in 869.

February 14: Saint Michael, Prince of Chernigov, took his throne in 1223 and began to take actions to unite Rus and all of Europe against the Golden Horde. His influence grew so that he also held the position of Prince of Novgorod from 1225 and Grand Prince of Kiev from 1236. Those areas that fell under his rule were said to be prosperous and he is remembered as a great diplomat and promoter of trade. When Rus fell to the Golden Horde, the Prince agreed to bow to the Khan. However, he refused to bow to the Gods of the Mongols and was beheaded. The Feast day for the Prince is celebrated on September 20th. On February 14th, 1572, his relics were transferred to a Church in Moscow built in his honor under the orders of Tsar Ivan the Terrible.

February 14: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Macarius of Belozersk. According to Museum sources, there is no saint by that name celebrated on February 14th.

February 14: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Saint Anthilogiy. According to Museum sources there is no saint by that name celebrated on February 14th.



Row 4

February 15: Saint Onesimus, an Apostle of the Seventy, fled from his home city and was thrown in prison. There, he met the Apostle Paul, who enlightened and then baptized him. Saint Onesimus acted as a son to Saint Paul while in prison and even after Onesimus was released. After the death of Saint Paul, Saint Onesimus served the apostles until their end and then was made bishop. During the reign of Emperor Trajan, Saint Onesimus was imprisoned for his faith. After eighteen days, he was stoned, followed by a beheading in the year 109.

February 15: Unknown Saint – This Martyr is labeled as Saint Anthimus. However there is no martyr by that name celebrated on February 15th in the Orthodox Church. There is a Saint Anthimus of Chios who is celebrated on this day, but he is a 19th century Bishop and so did not yet exist when this icon was created.

February 16: Saint Pamphilius devoted himself to collating manuscripts and correcting copies of New Testament text. His versions were copied down and were said to be responsible for converting many to Christianity. He was arrested by the governor of Palestinian Caesarea and imprisoned for two years. He was beheaded in the early 4th century alongside several other Christians.

February 16: Saint Porphyrius was an eighteen-year-old servant of Pamphilius. When Pamphilus was condemned to death, the young servant asked the governor's permission to bury the body after the execution. For this, he was immediately beheaded and his body was burned.

February 16: Saint Seleucius brought news of the execution of Saint Porphyrius to Saint Pamphilius who was imprisoned and awaiting his own execution. In so doing, Seleucius was outed as a Christian by the prison guards and was executed alongside Pamphilius.

February 16: Saint Flavin, Patriarch of Constantinople, was a presbyter of the church of Constantinople. Flavin was invited to the Second Council of Eftyches, where he had no say in any of the topics discussed, and the members condemned and disposed of him from the Council. After this occurred, the church doors were opened and soldiers came for Flavin, who was grasping the altar with all his strength so they couldn't take him away. The soldiers gained control of him and dragged him outside where they beat him. He was put in prison and died three days later in the year 449.

February 17: Saint Theodore of Amasea was an early 4th century Christian who was arrested, charged with setting a pagan temple on fire, and condemned to death. His remains were secreted away by a Christian woman who took them to the place of his birth and established a shrine over his body. In the 8th century Theodore became the subject of legend; it is said that there was a dragon terrorizing the people of Amasea which Theodore was able to defeat.

February 17: Unknown Saint – This monk is labeled as Saint Porphyrius. However there is no saint by that name celebrated on February 17. There is a Martyr Porphyrius celebrated on February 16 and a Bishop Porphyrius on February 26 but both are already featured on this icon.

February 17: Saint Mariamne was the sister of the holy Apostle Philip and traveled with him to spread Christianity. She was imprisoned with her brother and Saint Bartholomew but was not executed with them. She buried her brother and then sent to the area now known as Turkey and preached there for many years.

February 18: Saint Leo, Bishop of Rome (Leo I the Great) became Bishop of Rome in September 440. He was one of the defenders of Orthodoxy against the heresies of Eutyches, Dioscorus, and Nestorius. He influenced the emperors to convene the Fourth Ecumenical Council at Chalcedon in 451.

February 18: Unknown Saint – This martyr is labeled as Saint Maxin. However, there is no saint by that name celebrated on February 18. There is a Saint Maximus celebrated on February 19 who was martyred under Emperor Maximian in the early 4th century.

February 19: Saint Archippus, one of the Apostles of the Seventy, was bishop of the city of Colossae in Phrygia and later the Archbishop of the city of Gaza. During the persecution of Christians in the mid-1st century, Emperor Nero condemned the Apostle Archippus to be tortured and executed.

February 20: Saint Leo, Bishop of Catania, was renowned for his dealings with Heliodorus, a magician who falsely performed miracles from God. Saint Leo tried in vain to get Heliodorus to repent, but he would not. One day while Saint Leo was serving church sermons, he took his omophorion and tied it around the neck of Heliodorus and dragged him outside the church. He then lit a fire with the two of them inside and, by the power of God, Leo was unharmed. After this, people listened to him about the false healings.

Side B



Row 1

February 21: The Venerable Saint Timothy in Symbola became a monk at a young age at the monastery named "Symbola" in Asia Minor. Upon gaining a high degree of spiritual perfection, he received gifts from God for healing the sick and casting out devils. He died in the year 795 at an old age.

February 21: Saint Eustathius was the archbishop of Antioch from 323 to 331, and was elevated by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. The Council condemned the teachings of Arius, who refused to renounce any errors, and he was excommunicated from the Church. As a result, Arius plotted against Eustathius and bribed a woman to pretend she was the husband of Eustathius and the mother of his child. For this he was exiled to Thrace, where he later died in the year 337.

February 22: The Finding of the Sanctified Relics of the Holy Martyrs in Eugenius. During the persecutions against Christians, many bodies of martyrs and saints were buried in hidden places. Miracles began occurring near the gates and tower of the Eugenius quarter at Constantinople, so the bodies were taken to a church. It was discovered that the holy Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy and his helper Junia were among those relics recovered. In the twelfth century, a great church was built on the site.

February 23: The Venerable Polycarp of Briansk was born Prince Peter Ivanovich Boryatinsky. Boryatinsky was sent off to wage war against the Swedish king at the river Sestra. In 1580, having been the commander at Kholm, he was then captured by Lithuanians and released years later to return home. Several years after becoming the governor of Tiumen in 1591, he settled at Briansk and received tonsure under the name Polycarp. He built the monastery of the Transfiguration of the Lord and was the first Superior of it. He died and was buried in this monastery in about 1620.

February 23: The Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, was born in the first century. In the year 161, Marcus Aurelius inherited the throne and began the fiercest persecution against Christians. The pagans asked that the emperor find Saint Polycarp, as he was "the father of all the Christians." When the soldiers came for him, he invited them in to eat and for time to pray. The emperor ordered him to be burned alive, but the flames did not come in contact with him. He was then stabbed to death and his blood extinguished the fire. His body was cremated and what remained of his ashes were gathered.

February 23: The Venerable Saint Athanasius, Confessor of Constantinople, settled in one of the Nicomedia monasteries where he became a monk. During the reign of Leo the Armenian, Saint Athanasius was subjected to torture for venerating holy icons, then he underwent exile, grief and suffering. He died peacefully in the year 821.

February 24: The Discovery of the Head of Saint John the Forerunner. After the beheading of Saint John, his body was buried in the city of Sebaste and his head was hidden by Herodias. Saint Joanna, the wife of King Herod's steward, took the head and buried it in a capsule on the Mount of Olives. After many years, the property was acquired by a government official who became a monk and took the name of Innocent. As Innocent began to build a church on the land, he found the capsule. This marked the First Finding of the Head. Innocent then hid the head again for safe keeping. Years later, a vision appeared to two monks explaining the whereabouts of the holy head. They went to the site, found it, and brought it to a potter who hid it from the monks. The potter gave it to his sister before his death. Subsequently, Saint Eustathius came into possession of it. Intending to hide it and return for it, he left it in a cave where some monks built a monastery. The senior abbot of the monastery received a vision in 452 telling him where the head was located. He found the head and it was transferred to Emesa and then to Constantinople. This was considered the Second Finding of the Head of Saint John.

February 25: Saint Tarasius was Archbishop of Constantinople, where he was raised and gained the rank of senator. Rising through ranks very quickly, he attained the position of patriarchal throne in 784. In 787, the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened. Saint Tarasius spent twenty-two years governing the church and living an ascetic life. He spent the remainder of his life and money on charitable endeavors, feeding the poor, spending time with widows and orphans, and setting out meals on Holy Pascha. He died in the year 806.

February 26: Saint Porphyrius of Gaza was born in about 346 in Thessalonica. At the age of 25, he moved to Egypt and lived in the desert for years before he moved into a cave in the Jordanian wilderness for prayer and ascetic deeds. After five years in Jordan, he suffered from an illness and went to a monastery to pray. There he envisioned Jesus saying to him "Take this Wood and preserve it." When he was 45,

The Patriarch of Jerusalem ordained him to the holy priesthood and appointed him custodian of the Venerable Wood of the Cross of the Lord. He then took the position of Bishop of Gaza in 395 when his successor died. During his leadership, pagan authorities harassed Christians. Saint Porphyrius was rewarded by Emperor John Chrysostom for Porphyrius's successful intercession asking for a son. The emperor then issued an edict in the year 401 for the destruction of pagan temples in Gaza and the construction of a church on the same site as the chief pagan temple. Saint Porphyrius died in 420.

February 27: Saint Prokopius the Confessor lived during the 8th century in the region of Decapolis. He and other fervent believers in the holy Orthodoxy denounced the iconoclast heresy at the time. Under the ruling of Emperor Leo the Isaurian, the Saint was arrested and ordered to be tortured and imprisoned. There he suffered until the death of the emperor when he was set free. Saint Prokopius spent the remainder of his life in peace, spreading the Christian faith. He died in about 750.



Row 2

February 28: Saint Basil the Confessor was a monk who suffered during the reign of Emperor Leo the Isaurian in the 8th century. He was subjected to torture and imprisoned along with Saint Prokopius. He was set free after the death of the emperor and spent the remainder of his life venerating holy icons and instructing in the Orthodox faith. Saint Basil died peacefully in 750.

February 28: Saint Proterius, Archbishop of Alexandria, lived during the reign of Dioscorus in the 5th century. When the Fourth Ecumenical Council exiled Dioscorus, Proterius took over the throne of Alexandria where many followers of Dioscorus remained. Proterius left the city for a night and had a dream where the Prophet Isaiah told him "Return to the city, I am waiting to take you." The next day he returned to the city and locked himself inside a baptistery. Heretics broke into the baptistery and killed Proterius and six other men. They dragged the Archbishop's body through the streets. They finally burned the body and scattered the ashes.

February 29: Saint John Cassian the Roman was born in 360 and entered a monastery in the diocese of Tomis at a young age. He traveled around the cities and countries, learning of all the spiritual wisdom others had known. With the information he gained, he wrote a book titled *Conferences with the Fathers* in twenty-four books.

The remainder of this side of the icon is dedicated to an icon of the Tree of Jesse, sometimes called the Root of Jesse. This is believed to be the lineage of Christ and refers to Isaiah 11:1 "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." It is unclear why this imagery is featured here at the end of February. Typically the Tree of Jesse is a part of Christmas celebrations.