The Martyrdom of Constantin Brâncoveanu

On 15 August 1714, the Feast of the Dormition, when Constantin Brâncoveanu was also celebrating his 60th birthday, he and his four sons and his advisor Ianache were brought before Sultan Ahmed III of Turkey. Diplomatic representatives of Austria, Russia, France and England were also present. After all of his fortune had been seized, in exchange for the life of his family he was asked to renounce the Orthodox Christian faith. He reportedly said: "Behold, all my fortunes and all I had, I have lost! Let us not lose our souls. Be brave and manly, my beloved! Ignore death. Look at how much Christ, our Savior, has endured for us and with what shameful death he died. Firmly believe in this and do not move, nor leave your faith for this life and this world." After this, his four sons, Constantin, Ștefan, Radu and Matei and advisor Ianache were beheaded in front of their father.

History has also that the smallest child, Matei (12 years old) was so frightened after seeing the bloodbath and the heads of his three brothers that he started crying and asking his father to let him renounce Christianity and convert to Islam as the Sultan Ahmed III had demanded. At that moment, Constantin Brâncoveanu said: "Of our kind none have lost their faith. It is better to die a thousand times than to leave your ancient faith just to live few more years on earth." Matei listened and offered his head. After Brâncoveanu himself was decapitated, their heads were impaled on javelins and displayed in a procession. Their bodies were left before the gate and later on thrown into the waters of the Bosphorus.

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Subdeacon Gabriel Corey

August 11, 2019 – After-feast of the Transfiguration of Christ

Martyr and Archdeacon Euplos of Catania in Sicily; Niphon, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyrs Anastasios and Demetrios of Lesbos

Matins Gospel Reading: John 20:11-18

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7):
Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast Risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Transfiguration (Tone 7):
When you were transfigured not the mountain, O Christ our God, you showed your friends as much of your glory as they could bear. So now for us sinners too, let this same eternal light shine forth, by the prayers of the Theotokos. O Giver of life Glory to You.

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Kontakion of the Transfiguration of Christ (Tone 7)
On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father!

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
The Lord will give strength to His people.
Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

Epistle Reading: the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. 1:10-17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:14-22

Wednesday, August 14: Vesperal Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Dormition, 7 PM

Saturday, August 17: Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

Volunteers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prosphora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Food</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Aug 14</td>
<td>Sd. Gabe</td>
<td>Dn. Walid</td>
<td>Ofelia I.</td>
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<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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<td>Sunday Aug 18</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Sarah K.</td>
<td>Nancy H.</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Elizabeth K.</td>
<td>G-K</td>
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<td>Sunday Aug 25</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Eva W.</td>
<td>Hal O.</td>
<td>JoAnne T.</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Rowena L.</td>
<td>L-P</td>
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<td>Sunday Sep 1</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Dn. Walid</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Pat K.</td>
<td>Robert H.</td>
<td>R-W</td>
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<td>Sunday Sep 8</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Azizh C.</td>
<td>Rowena L.</td>
<td>Gabriel &amp; Domitille N.</td>
<td>A-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Sep 14</td>
<td>Joseph L.</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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News and Announcements

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago presents the annual Labor Day Weekend Family Retreat to be held Aug 30 - Sep 1 at the St Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansansville WI. Topic: Spiritual Athleticism in Family Life, speaker Fr Josiah Trenham. For details please visit https://www.gocfamilysynaxis.org/2019-ld-weekend-retreat. Registration closes on August 21st, register by August 15th to receive a discount.

Orthodox Women in the Healing Ministries will hold its 27th Annual Retreat on October 4, 5, & 6 in Rives Junction, Michigan. Retreat speaker V. Rev. Dimitrie Vincent. Theme: "My Grace is Sufficient for You, My Strength is Made Perfect in Weakness." For details, visit https://owhm.org/schedule

Today we are glorifying the most holy Theotokos, who carried her own cross throughout her life and showed us an example of holiness, purity of mind and heart, love, patience, and fortitude. She was taken up to heaven not only because she revealed in herself the greatest gift of divine grace, but also because she preserved this gift throughout her whole life. Through her patience, suffering, and sorrow, she multiplied this gift and offered a great sacrifice to God.

Today as we glorify the most pure heavenly queen, we find her our example for how to bear our salvific crosses. We praise her as the intercessor for mankind who, having followed the sorrowful path of her earthly life, now stands in glory before her Son and our Lord and prays for us. Through her prayers, we are strengthened to bear the cross and helped along our path to salvation.

--Patriarch Kirill: In His Own Words

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