

All Saints' Eve Storybook

Who will be the next . . .

2019



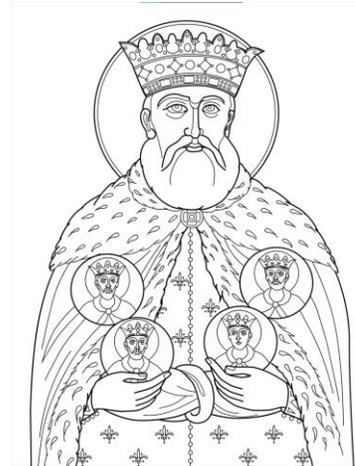
**St. Elizabeth
the New Martyr**

2020



**Sts. Cyril and
Methodius**

2021



**St. Constantin
Brâncoveanu**

Saint of the Year?

2022



What is a saint? A “holy one”, someone who knows they belong to God and who lives that way. An old-fashioned word for holy is someone who is “hallowed”. We still use the word *hallowed* when we pray the Lord’s Prayer every day — “Hallowed be Thy name” — which means we confess the Name of God to be kept sacred and holy.

Our All Saints’ Eve book was created to help us celebrate the Feast of All Saints, which is observed by Christians in the western churches on November 1. (In the Orthodox Church we observe the Feast of All Saints every year on the Sunday after Pentecost with a Divine Liturgy on that day). Because “hallow” means “holy” the western Feast of All Saints (or Holy Ones) was also called All Hallows. The night before, October 31, became known as All Hallows Evening, or Halloween. You’ve heard that word before.

You probably think of Halloween as a time when children dress up in all sorts of costumes, some of them scary, but the name *Halloween* is really a Christian name for the evening of All Saints. So, we thought it would be a great time for us Christians to dress up like saints! It makes sense, doesn’t it?

It is important for us to always remember the saints. They show us what it is like to follow Jesus our Savior. Some of them were put to death because they were Christians; others preached the gospel in foreign lands; others devoted their lives to prayer, to confession, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and showing mercy.

We hope you will enjoy reading the stories in this book and remembering the saints. You probably have a saint’s name yourself. Do you know the story of your saint? This would be a great time to find out more. Let Jesus inspire you to serve and obey him like the thousands of saints who have lived before us. Let’s all pray together and help each other to become more and more like the saints!

Special thanks this year to authors/artists: Carolyn Freve, Melissa Wagner, Rasheeri Obah, Nelson Freve, Fr. Andrew, Maggie Kishler and Jason Lavoie. We really appreciate everyone’s wonderful efforts!



St. Photini

66



Photini lived in Palestine in the first century. She was the woman at the well whom Jesus spoke to and asked for a drink of water. This surprised Photini, since she was a Samaritan, and Jews did not have any dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus told her that He could give her the gift of “living water” but Photini still did not understand because Jesus did not have any way to draw water from the well. Jesus said that anyone who drank water from the well would be thirsty again, but if they drank “living water” from Him they would never be thirsty again. Photini asked for this “living water” and repented of her many sins.

After this, she went into her village and told the townspeople to come and see the Christ who “told her all that she ever did.” She is sometimes known as the first to proclaim the gospel. She converted her five sisters and her two sons, Victor and Joses. They too, became evangelists for Christ.

She was baptized by the apostles who gave her the name Photini, which means ‘enlightened one.’ After Saints Peter and Paul were martyred, she and her family left Samaria and went to Carthage to proclaim the Gospel.

Emperor Nero was very cruel to Christians while he reigned. Photini lived in Carthage with her son Joses, while her older son Victor fought in the Roman army against the barbarians and later became a commander. Nero told him to go to Italy to arrest and torture Christians.

An important man, Sebastian, told Victor, that he knew that Photini and Joses were Christians and that they should be ‘secret’ Christians so that they would not be tortured. But Victor told him that he too wanted to preach the Gospel as his mother and brother were doing. Sebastian tried to talk him out of it but was suddenly struck blind for three days. After this, he regained his sight and Sebastian told Victor that he knew that “the God of the Christians is the only true God.” Sebastian’s servants witnessed this miracle and they believed and were baptized with Sebastian.

Nero heard about these things and ordered all the Christians to come to Rome. They were brought before Nero and he asked if they believed in Christ. They all refused to renounce Christ, so they were tortured but felt no pain. Nero ordered Joses and Sebastian to be blinded and put in prison. Photini and her five sisters were taken to the emperor’s palace to live with Nero’s daughter. While there she converted many of these women.

After several years Nero ordered that the Christians should be crucified and beaten with straps. After four days Nero’s servants went to see if they were dead, and they became blind. An angel freed the martyrs and healed them. Nero was so angry that he beat Photini and threw her down a well for twenty days. After this, Nero wanted her to deny Christ and sacrifice to idols, but she refused and was thrown into the well again where she surrendered her soul to God.

*St. Photini is commemorated on the Sunday of
the Samaritan Woman on the 5th Sunday of Pascha.*

~ Carolyn Freve

St. Hermione of Ephesus

117



When people hear the name Hermione these days, they tend to think of the heroine in a popular children's book series. However, Saint Hermione of Ephesus was a remarkable woman who served God and others until the end of her life. She was born in Caesarea and was one of the daughters of Philip the Evangelist. He was one of the seven deacons described in Acts chapter 6 who was chosen to minister to the early Christians in Jerusalem.

The tradition states that St. Hermione studied medicine. She then traveled to Ephesus with her sister Eukhilda to meet St. John the Theologian. Sadly, they found that he already died upon their arrival. Thankfully, they were able to meet Petronius, a disciple of Saint Paul, and were able to assist him in his evangelistic efforts.

In time, St. Hermione built a hospital in Ephesus and became renowned for her healing of the sick. Her reputation as a Christian and a healer became well known, and the Roman Emperor Trajan stopped to see her on his way to war with the Persians. He tried to convince her that she should renounce her faith. She refused and was beaten in the face for several hours. She stood strong in her faith and said that she had "a vision from the Lord, in the form of Petronius, sitting on the throne of judgement." Emperor Trajan released her after he saw how strong she was in her faith even when she was tortured. She prophesied that Trajan would defeat the Persians and his son-in-law, Hadrian, would succeed him.

The emperor Hadrian tried to make St. Hermione recant her belief in Christ by having her tortured with scourging and having her feet pierced with wire. She endured these tortures with no complaint. Next, Hadrian ordered that she be thrown into a cauldron of burning tar. She made the sign of the cross as she entered and was not harmed. The fire burnt out when she entered and "she seemed to be standing in dew." Hadrian touched the cauldron to see if it was hot but his nails fell off and he was badly burnt. Furious, he ordered that they beat St. Hermione and cut her feet with nails. She still survived by the grace of God. Then, they attempted to fry St. Hermione in a huge frying pan. After she was thrown into the fire naked, the fire under the pan exploded and burnt several onlookers instead.

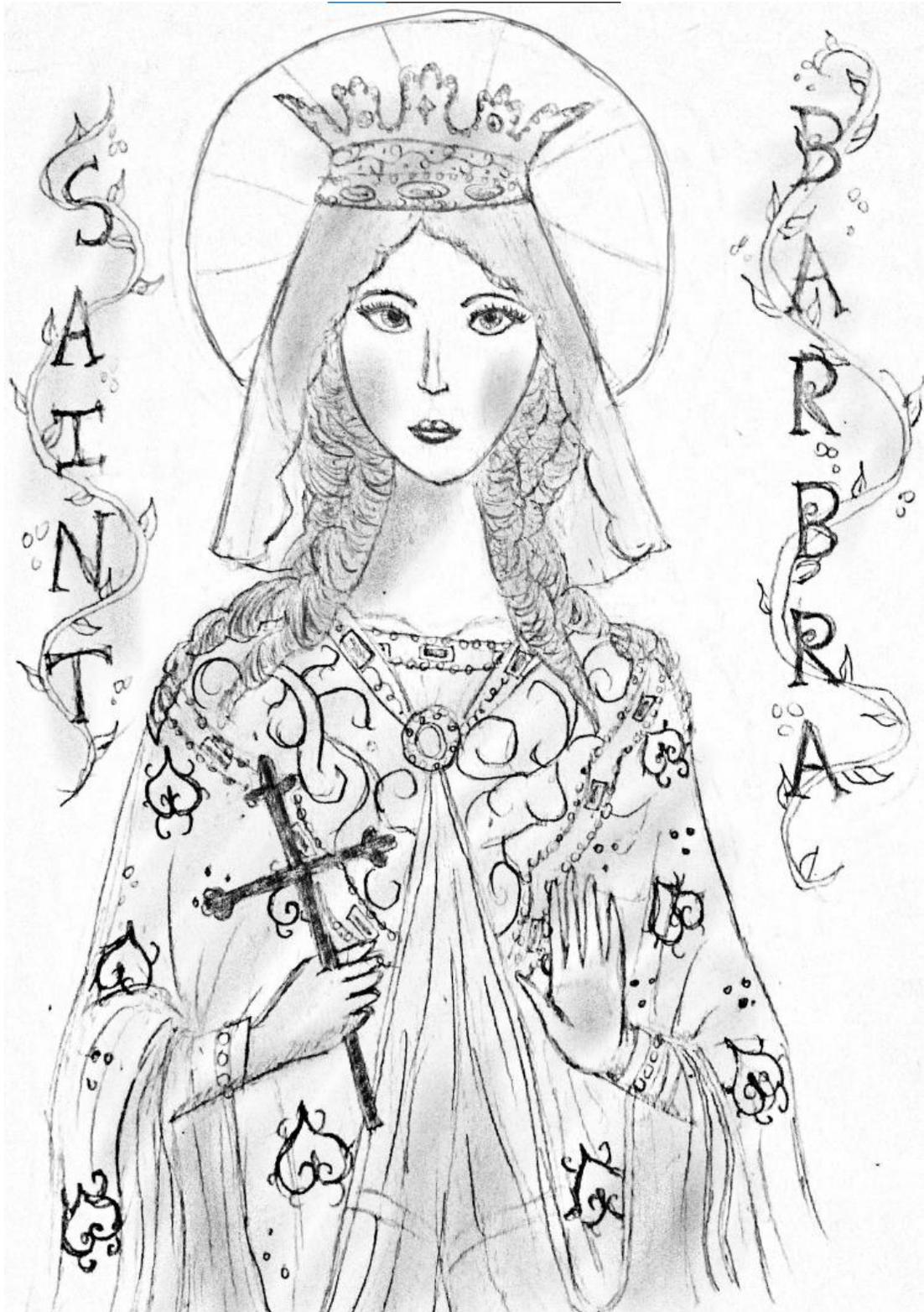
After enduring these terrible tortures, St. Hermione pretended to want to sacrifice to the idols and was taken to a pagan temple. Once there, she prayed and "caused the jeweled idols in Hadrian's temple to tumble down into ruins." Finally, Hadrian had her beheaded. Yet even as she was being executed, St. Hermione was able to convert her paralyzed executioners, Theotimus and Theodulos, to Christianity. She healed them and promised them that they would go to heaven. Both men died soon after her death.

Some believe St. Hermione was buried on Pion Hill in Ephesus along with other saints such as Mary Magdalene and Saint Timothy. Her feast day is September 4. She is remembered for her great healing and for founding the first Christian hospital in Ephesus.

~Melissa Wagner

St. Barbara

306



Somewhere in Phoenicia, a charitable young lady, Barbara, lived in a tall tower. She had been shut up in there by her father, Dioscorus, a noble man, in an attempt to shield her from the outer world. It wasn't an unpleasant tower, for her father was rich, but really how would you feel never allowed to see the wonders of the outer world? She was taught, fed and clothed by her maids, eventually learning of the Christian faith from them, and she converted joyously.

As I mentioned, her father is rich and decided to build a strictly structured bath house for his dear daughter. Barbara watched as it was built and asked for a third window to be added, as a sign of the Holy Trinity. Of course, the builders hesitated, for Dioscorus was one to be feared, but they did as Barbara asked.

When Dioscorus came to inspect the bath house with Barbara, he immediately became enraged at the simple extra window. And, as every Christian should, Barbara took this chance to explain to him of her faith. You might have thought her father would take it kindly, but it was of the downright opposite. His fury immediately rose to yet higher heights, exerting the want to kill our dear Barbara.

She fled, and it is said that the earth opened up, hiding Barbara from sight. Later though, she was betrayed by a greedy shepherd that had seen this. Her father found her and dragged her home by the hair. She was once again locked up, this time in a dungeon, but it wasn't the slightest bit unpleasant to her, for she had the Lord to comfort her.

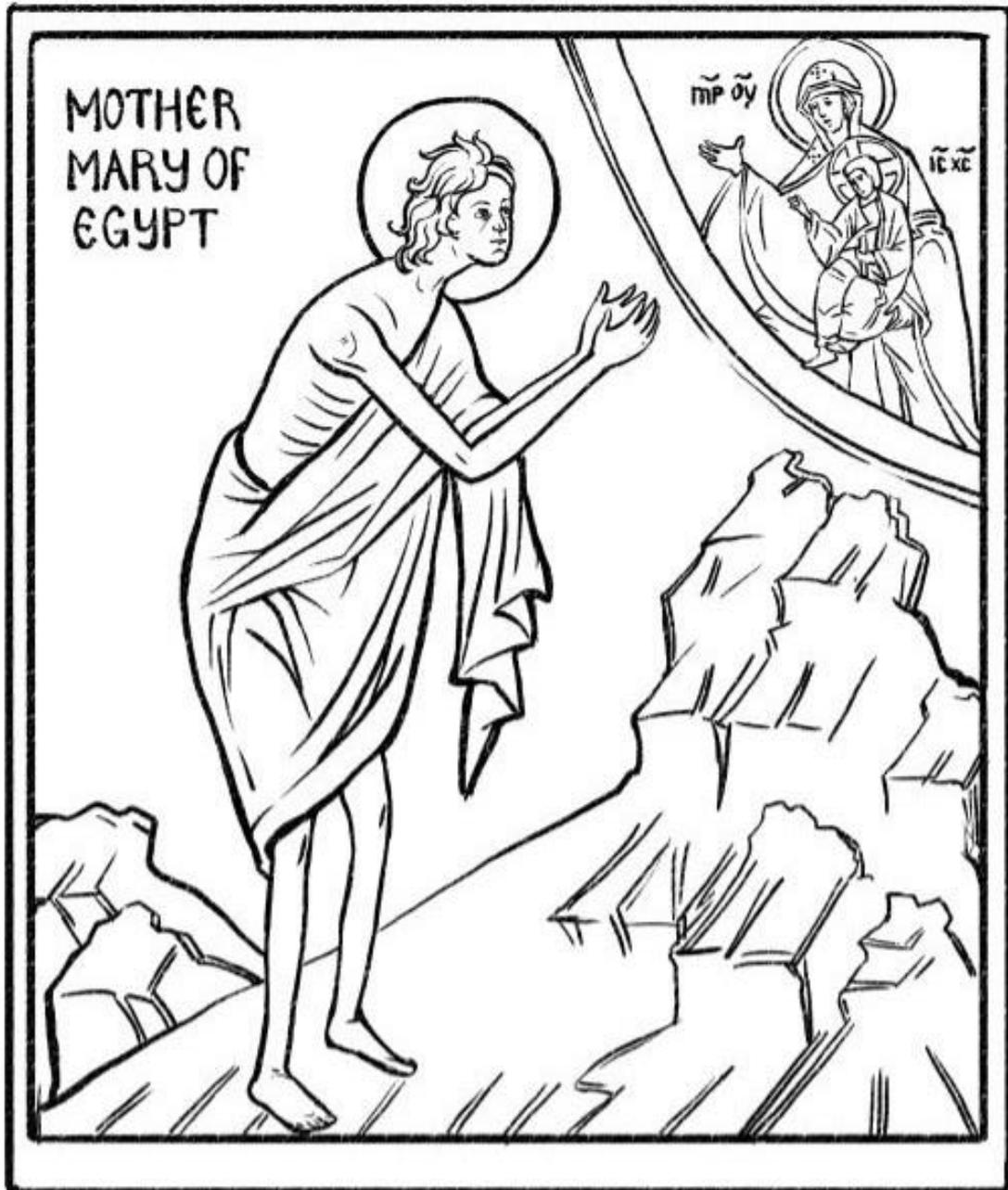
She was sadly tortured with everything her persecutors could lay hands upon, with her father giving not the slightest mercy upon his only daughter. She was miraculously healed each morning of the smallest scratch and sometimes after torture came out without wounds. Her father, however, was not impressed, only beating her more cruelly. This girl would not die! Dioscorus had Barbara brought before him. She once again appeared, her fair face unscathed and with a humility and calmness that might have touched the heart of her father if it had not been clouded with idolatry. Instead, it only maddened him more to the point where he took his sword and sliced off her head.

Today she is a Holy Martyr and known as St. Barbara.

~ R.M.C. Obah

St. Mary of Egypt

421



Mary of Egypt, who was born in 344 A.D, ran away from her parents at age 12 and lived a sinful life for the next 17 years. One day she saw a crowd going to Jerusalem and decided she wanted to go with them. Since she had no money, she told some men that she would help them with merrymaking if she could go with them.

Within a few days of her arrival in Jerusalem, she saw a large crowd hurrying to church for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. She tried several times to enter the church but was unable to because of an invisible barrier. Above her, she saw an icon of the Pure Mother of God and then understood that her sinful life was keeping her from entering the church. In tears, she begged the Holy Virgin to help her get inside the church, promising to give up her sinful life and go where the Mother of God would lead her.

She was allowed into the church where she saw the Precious Cross and the Holy Mysteries. She understood that the Lord accepts repentance and filled with joy returned to the icon where she heard a voice telling her, “If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest. “On her way to the Jordan, someone gave her money to buy three loaves of bread which miraculously fed her for several years.

Mary spent the next 47 years in solitude. She then met the priest Father Zosimas to whom she told her life story. She told him how sinful memories attacked her mind and soul like wild beasts! She said, “My clothes wore out and I suffered greatly from the heat and cold”. She was tempted to return to her old life, but the Mother of God protected her and chased away evil thoughts. She asked Father Zosimas to not tell anyone about her until after she died.

The next year, on the day of the Last Supper, Zosimas brought her the Holy Mysteries. He saw Mary walk across the Jordan as on dry land and said, “Glory to You, Christ our God, for you have shown me how far away I am from perfection.” He then gave Mary Holy Communion and promised to return the following year.

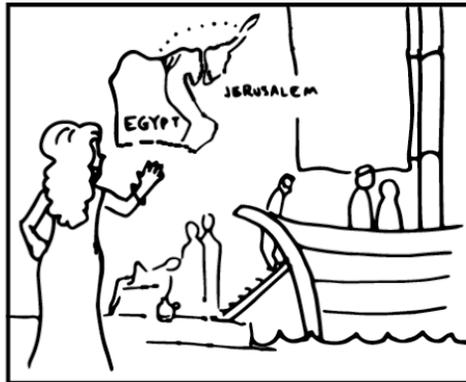
He did so and found Mary lying in eternal repose with her face toward the East. In the sand, she had written her name with instructions for her burial. The year was 421 A.D

Father Zosimas could not think of how to bury Mary since he had no tools and was very weak. But then a lion appeared and dug her grave with his paws. Covering St. Mary’s feet with tears and kisses, he placed her body in the grave with prayers.

~Nelson Freve

∞
 THE LIFE OF
ST. MARY
 OF
EGYPT

∞
 manymercies.blogspot.com



MARY WAS FROM EGYPT, AND SHE LIVED A LIFE OF SHAME. ONE DAY SHE GOT ON A BOAT TO GO TO JERUSALEM.

SHE WANTED TO GO IN THE CHURCH TO SEE THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS...



...BUT SHE COULDN'T GO IN! SHE SAW AN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, AND WEPT FOR ALL HER SINS.

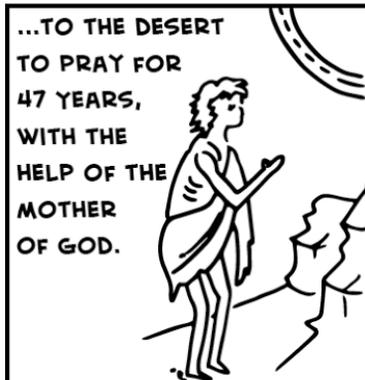
SHE HEARD A VOICE FROM THE HEAVENS...



∞
"Cross the Jordan to find glorious rest."
 ∞



...SO SHE WENT ACROSS THE JORDAN...



...TO THE DESERT TO PRAY FOR 47 YEARS, WITH THE HELP OF THE MOTHER OF GOD.



SHE MET FR. ZOSIMAS IN THE DESERT. WHEN HE BROUGHT HER HOLY COMMUNION SHE WALKED ACROSS THE JORDAN AS ON DRY LAND.



WHEN ST. MARY REPOSED, FR. ZOSIMAS COVERED HER FEET WITH HIS TEARS, AND A LION DUG HER GRAVE. LATER, FR. ZOSIMAS TOLD HER STORY TO OTHERS, BRINGING HOPE TO SINNERS AND GLORY TO GOD.

HOLY ST. MARY OF EGYPT, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!

St. John of Damascus

780

Kontakion: *Let us sing praises to John, worthy of great honor, the composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the Church, the defender of her doctrines. Through the might of the Lord's Cross he overcame heretical error.*

- Saint John Damascene -



Few saints in the history of the Orthodox Church have had as much influence on worship and doctrine as St. John of Damascus. Born to a Christian family in a Muslim-controlled land, St. John was given a good education and served for a number of years as the chief minister to Caliph Abdul-Malik, the Muslim ruler of Damascus. At the same time, the Christian emperor Leo the Isaurian fell into heresy and tried to stamp out use of icons in all Orthodox churches and homes in the Byzantine Empire. St. John, with a brilliant theological mind, rose up in defense of the icons.

Unfortunately, Emperor Leo responded by slandering him to the Caliph. The Caliph then cut off St. John's hand. But St. John spent an entire day and night praying in front of an icon of the Mother of God, and by morning his hand was restored and healed!

St. John then left his high position in the government of the Caliph and joined the monastery of St. Sabas. As a monk he wrote important books of theology and composed beautiful hymns for the Church, many of which we still sing to this day. Generations of Orthodox Christians have buried friends and loved ones while singing hymns composed by St. John for the funeral service:

...All things are but feeble shadows, all things are most deluding dreams, yet one moment only, and death shall supplant them all. But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, and in the sweetness of Thy beauty, give rest to him whom Thou hast chosen, for as much as Thou lovest mankind.

St. John did not only write hymns about death. He also composed the great Paschal canon we sing each year at the midnight Paschal vigil:

It is the day of Resurrection, let us be radiant, O ye peoples; Pascha, the Lord's Pascha; for Christ God hath brought us from death unto life, and from earth unto Heaven as we sing the triumphal hymn.

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, "O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice! For thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day!" Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. Rejoice and exult now, O Zion, and thou, O pure one, Theotokos, rejoice at the Resurrection of thy Son.

St. John remained at the monastery for most of the rest of his life. He only left in 754 to attend a council in Constantinople, where the Church attempted to come to a conclusion on whether or not icons would be allowed in worship. St. John zealously defended icons, and since the emperor was not on his side, St. John was put away in prison and suffered greatly. He died in the year 780, a full 100 years old. He is remembered today primarily for his hymn-writing, and his zealous defense of the true faith of Jesus Christ in the face of the heresy of iconoclasm.

~ Fr. Andrew Kishler

St. Edward the Confessor

1066



St. Edward the Confessor was one of the last kings to rule the Anglo-Saxons. He was born to the sister of Duke Richard of Normandy in 1004, and when he was about ten, his mother took him and his brother Alfred back to Normandy in order to escape from a Danish invasion in England. Normandy was where St. Edward developed his pious Christian life, which he carried with him all throughout his life.

It took a couple of years and one failed attempt to capture the crown of the Anglo-Saxons, but he was officially crowned in 1043. St. Edward made a personal vow to himself years ago that, if he ever did succeed in getting the crown, he would make a pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. So, once he was king, he was granted permission by the Pope to visit Rome and make his pilgrimage.

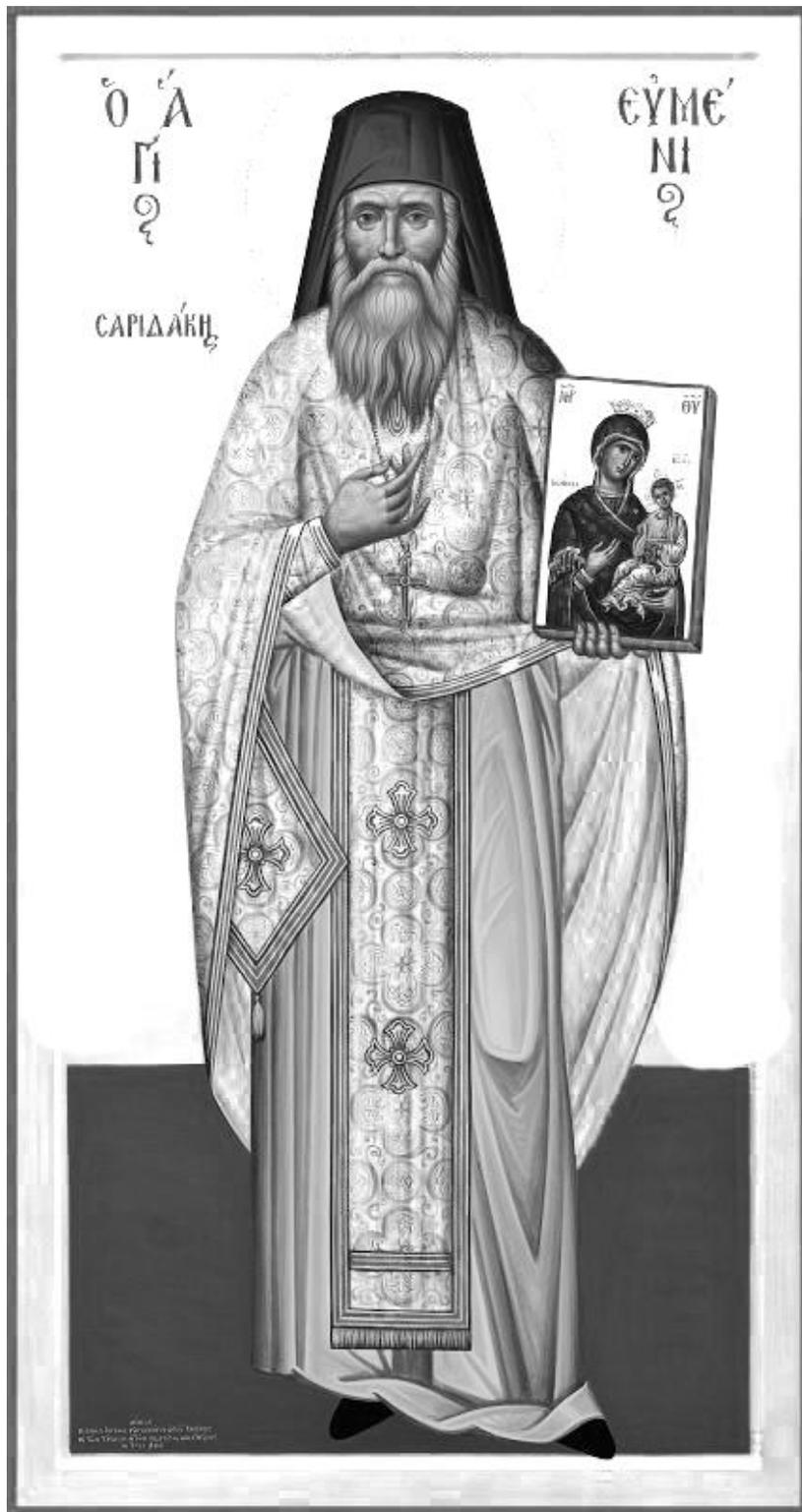
St. Edward as the king brought peace, prosperity, and popularity. He was a wonderful ruler, but he was more fit to be a monk than a king. He led a very pious life and made a vow of chastity, even after he had married Edith, the daughter of Earl Godwin, whom St. Edward had exiled for refusing to punish townspeople for starting a bloody riot. As a result, St. Edward had no direct heir.

There's a legend about St. Edward that involves a ring. It says that he was riding to a chapel that had been dedicated to St. John the Evangelist and came across a beggar who was asking for money. St. Edward gave the old man his ring instead and went on his way. A few years passed before a couple of pilgrims were helped by an old man when they got stranded in the Holy Land. The old man told them that he was really St. John the Evangelist, and he was holding the king's ring from their meeting! The ring was given back to the king with the message that St. Edward would soon meet St. John in heaven.

St. Edward the Confessor died a natural death on January 5th, 1066. His body is still preserved in a shrine in England.

~ Maggie Kishler

St. Eumenios the Elder 1999



☩lder Eumenios was a saint of the twentieth century who was well known for his ever-present smile, holy laughter, and his great love for all who God placed before him. After overcoming the severe illness of leprosy and the persistent attacks of the demons, he shone forth with a joy and love for Christ that can be seen radiating through his photos and icons. His holiness was attested to by many, including his contemporary St. Porphyrios, who often sought the sacrament of confession from the Elder and considered him to be a ‘hidden saint of our day, who comes along only once every two hundred years.’

Elder Eumenios was born on January 1, 1931 in the village of Ethia on the island of Crete. He was baptized with the name Constantine Saridakis and was the youngest in a family of eight children.

Despite losing his father at a young age, he persisted in his faith and considered becoming a monk. In Constantine’s own words: *“I loved God; of course, I often thought of becoming a monk. One day the priest says to me: ‘Let me make you a sexton.’ I went. I lit the lamps morning and night, I even read, I read whatever books I saw.”*

On his thirteenth birthday Constantine received a vision of the uncreated light of Christ, and he was inspired to become a monk by a divine calling. As he recounted, *“I went, lit the lamps in the church, and then went to our house. My sister Eugenia was there... (When) we were eating, a flash came and blinded me and entered the depths of my soul. And immediately, at the same time, I shouted to Eugenia: ‘Eugenia, I will become a monk!’ At the same time, at that moment when God illumined me, I saw with my own eyes that glow that entered me. As soon as I saw this glow, I said directly: ‘I will become a monk.’”*

Four years passed and, when he was seventeen years old, Constantine entered a monastery not too far from his village: the monastery of the Prophet Elias. For three years he served two elderly, blind monks and the abbot of the monastery. After these years of service, he was officially tonsured as a monk and received the name Sophronios.

Shortly after becoming a monk Fr. Sophronios was struck with two great struggles: he fell ill with the serious disease of leprosy, which made him regularly feverish and caused his skin to fall off; and he found himself continually attacked by the demons, even to the point of possession. He was sent to the leprosy hospital in the city of Athens where he would eventually recover completely from his physical illness. Through the prayers and exorcisms performed at monasteries in Crete the Lord delivered Fr. Sophronios of the demonic possession that took hold of him.

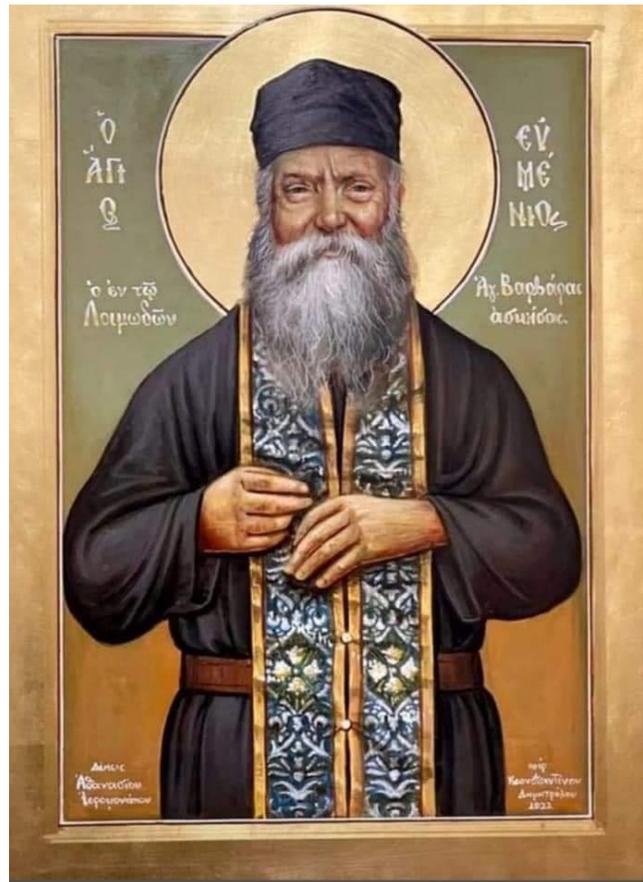
Fr. Sophronios was regularly moved to compassion upon seeing the suffering of nearly 500 other patients at the leprosy clinic, and upon his own recovery decided to remain in this hospital and serve the patients there. He tended to the needs of the bedridden, prayed for their spiritual and physical wellbeing, and offered services for all in the nearby chapel dedicated to the unmercenary saints Cosmas and Damien.

At the age of forty-four, Father Sophronios was ordained a priest, taking the name Eumenios, and spent the rest of his life serving the patients and staff of the hospital as their spiritual father. As one account reads, *“Having lived more than a half century in his humble hovel in the hospital yard, the elder ceaselessly served God and people—hearing confessions, serving at the holy altar, consoling, giving advice in complicated situations, working miracles and healing both spiritual and physical illnesses. Despite the serious illnesses that he also suffered, a smile never left the*

elder's face, and boundless love for God and all people shone in his eyes. According to eyewitnesses, clairvoyance, working miracles, and seeing the saints were all ordinary business and par for the course for Fr. Eumenios."

Upon his return from pilgrimage to Russia in the early 1990s, Fr. Eumenios' health began to decline. He suffered from diabetes, weakened vision, kidney problems, and serious problems with his legs. Despite this he continued his pastoral service with his usually joyful and loving demeanor. Fr. Eumenios finally succumbed to his illnesses at the age of 68 and fell asleep in the Lord on May 23, 1999.

~ Jason Lavoie



Find the Saints

There are 7 saints nominated in this story booklet. You can find their names in the grid below. Names can go down, across, and in two diagonals, both forwards and backwards.

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

BARBARA
EDWARD
EUMENIOS
HERMIONE
JOHN
MARY
PHOTINI



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