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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God For All Things!

September 1, 2013	Ecclesiastical New Year. 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
September 7	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
September 8	11 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Venerable Symeon Stylites (the Elder) (459) and his mother Saint Martha (428). Virgin-martyrs Tatiana and Natalia (1937). Martyr Aeithalas of Persia (380). Holy Forty Virgin-martyrs: Laurencia the deaconess, Celsina, Theoclia, Theoctista, Dorothy, Eutychia, Thecla, Aristaineta, Philadelphia, Mary, Veronica, Euthymia, Lamprotatia, Euphymia, Theodora, Theodota, Teteia, Aquilina, Theodulia, Aplodora, Lampadia, Procopia, Paula, Junilla, Ampliana, Percissa, Polynicia, Maura, Gregoria, Cyria, Bassa, Callinica, Barbara, Cyriacia, Agathonica, Justa, Irene, Matrona, Timothea, Tatiana, and Anna, and Martyr Ammon the Deacon, their teacher, at Heraclea in Thrace (321-3). Martyrs Callista and her brothers Evodus and Hermogenes, at Nicomedia (309). Righteous Joshua the Son of Nun (1400 B.C.). Venerable Meletius the Younger of Thebes (1095-1124). New Martyr Angelis of Constantinople (1680). Venerable Monk Nicholas of Courtaliatis in Crete (1670). Venerable Symeon of Lesbos. Saint Evanthia. Saint Verena of Zurzach (350). Saint Aegidius of Camargue (590). Saint Haido of Stanos (1820-21). Saint Fiacre of Breuil (d. 670). Saint Lythan of Llandaff, Wales. Saint Drithelm, Hermit of Maelros (+c. 700).

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria and the Middle East, Bishop JOHN, Bishop PAUL. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacon Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Olga Shast, Shirley Blessing, Nina Tkachuk Dimas, Protodeacon Sergei Kapral and Father Geoffrey Korz were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of John and Rose Medvick were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Michael Ciko, Mary Mezick, Walter Spytko, Stanley Bayzon, and Paul and Kay Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

PSALM 82: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment:

2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*

3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;

7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince."

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Next Sunday, September 8, Saint Anna's Sisterhood will hold a meeting at Coffee Hour.

THE CHURCH NEW YEAR's first day is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Lk 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2), the Savior proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr. 1613, p.1).

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.

Venerable Symeon Stylites (the Elder). In these times [about 440 A.D.] flourished and became illustrious,

Simeon, of holy and famous memory, who originated the contrivance of stationing himself on the top of a column, thereby occupying a space of scarce two cubits in circumference. This man, endeavoring to realize in the flesh the existence of the heavenly hosts, lifts himself above the concerns of earth, and overpowering the downward tendency of man's nature, is intent on things above. He was adored by all the countryside, wrought many miracles, and the Emperor Theodosius II listened to his advice and sought his benediction.

Simeon prolonged his endurance of this mode of life through fifty-six years; nine of which he spent in the first monastery where he was instructed in divine knowledge, and forty-seven in the "Mandra" as it was called; namely, ten in a certain nook; on shorter columns, seven; and thirty upon one of forty cubits. After his departure [from this life] his holy body was conveyed to Antioch, escorted by the garrison, and a great concourse guarding the venerable body, lest the inhabitants of the neighboring cities should gather and carry it off. In this manner it was conveyed to Antioch, and attended, during its progress, with extraordinary prodigies.

The body has been preserved nearly entire until my time [about 580 A.D.]; and in company with many priests, I enjoyed a sight of his sacred head, in the episcopate of the famous Gregory, when Philippicus had requested that precious relic of the saints might be sent him for the protection of the Eastern armies. The head was well preserved save for the teeth some of which had been violently removed by the hands of the pious [for relics].

According to another writer, Theodoret, in Simeon's lifetime, he was visited by pilgrims from near and far; Persia, Ethiopia, Spain, and even Britain. To these at times he delivered sermons. He wore on his body a heavy iron chain. In praying, "he bent his body so that his forehead almost touched his feet." A spectator once counted 1244 repetitions of this movement, and then gave up reckoning. Simeon took only one scanty meal per week, and fasted through the season of Lent. It is alleged that the devil having afflicted him with an ulcer in his thigh as reward for a little self-righteousness, Simeon, as penance, never touched the afflicted leg upon the pillar again, and stood for the remaining year of his life upon one leg. Evagrius, Ecclesiastical History, 1.13

PSALM 67:1 God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us.

2 That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth.

5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

6 Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us.

7 God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Churches In Egypt Cancel Sunday Masses For the First Time in Over 1500 Years

by Daniel Doherty | Aug 22, 2013

The persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt has become so bad and so violent in recent weeks that churches in the northern part of the country have cancelled Sunday masses and prayer services for the first time in nearly two millennia. The Times of Israel reported this story a few days ago:

Amid escalating violence against Egypt's Copts, churches in Minya, located in upper Egypt, cancelled Sunday Mass for the first time in 1,600 years. Other churches in Minya also didn't hold prayer services.

"We did not hold prayers in the monastery on Sunday for the first time in 1,600 years," Priest Selwanes Lotfy of the Virgin Mary and Priest Ibram Monastery in Degla, just south of Minya, told the al-Masry al-Youm daily.

He said supporters of ousted president Mohammed Morsi destroyed the monastery, which includes three churches, one of which is an archaeological site. "One of the extremists wrote on the monastery's wall, 'donate [this] to the martyrs' mosque,'" Lotfy added.

Copts, the largest indigenous Christian minority in the Middle East and North Africa, make up about 10 percent of Egypt's total population of some 90 million people. One of the world's oldest Christian communities, they have generally kept a low-profile, but have become more politically active since Mubarak was ousted and sought to ensure fair treatment in the aftermath. They regularly face violence and discrimination within Egyptian society.

The Times further points out that over 58 Coptic churches in Egypt have been desecrated since last Sunday and hundreds more have been killed. The reason is because many radical Islamists contend that Coptic Christians are principally responsible for the ousting of their Dear Leader, former Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamad Morsi, and therefore must be punished accordingly. Recall earlier this month that an innocent, ten-year-old Christian girl was murdered in cold blood. Why? Because she had the audacity to walk home from Bible Study class...

Meanwhile, the military pledged last week to rebuild every Coptic church Islamists have burned, looted, and destroyed: The Egyptian defense minister has ordered the repair and reconstruction of all churches that suffered damage in the country's violent demonstrations since the Egyptian military removed President Mohamed Morsi from power last month.

Defense minister Col. Gen. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi intends to fix the damage to Coptic churches at Rabaa Adaweya and Nahda squares, according to a report by the Mid-East Christian News.

Dozens of churches were attacked and burned in riots after thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities to demand the end of what they call military rule, following the removal of Morsi on July 3. Many of Morsi's supporters have voiced criticism at Egypt's Christian minority for largely supporting the military's decision to oust him from office.

"The Egyptian defense minister ordered the engineering department of the armed forces to swiftly repair all the affected churches, in recognition of the historical and national role played by our Coptic brothers," read a statement that aired on Egyptian television.

Perhaps the Egyptian military's resources could be better spent on -- oh, I don't know -- protecting its people. After all, if they don't, I see no compelling reason why we should continue sending them foreign aid.