

Saintly Notes

Martyrs Guria, Shamuna, and Habib (November 15)

Guria and Shamuna were prominent citizens of Edessa. During one of the persecutions of Christians, they hid outside the city and lived in fasting and prayer, encouraging true believers who came to them for counsel. However, they were captured and brought before the judge, who threatened them with death if they did not submit to the imperial decree demanding idol worship. These holy martyrs of Christ answered him: "If we submit to the imperial decree, we will perish, even if you don't kill us."

After cruel torture, they were thrown into prison, where they remained from August 1 to November 10, enduring hunger, darkness and pain. They were then led out and again tortured, but since they remained unwavering in the Christian Faith, they were condemned to death and beheaded in the year 322, during the reign of the wicked Emperor Licinius.

Later Habib, a deacon in Edessa, suffered tortures for Christ his Lord and gave his spirit to God while in the flames. His mother took his body, miraculously intact, from the fire and buried it in a grave with the relics of St. Guria and St. Shamuna. When the persecution ceased, Christians built a church in honor of the three martyrs, Guria, Shamuna and Habib, and placed their miracle-working relics in a common reliquary.

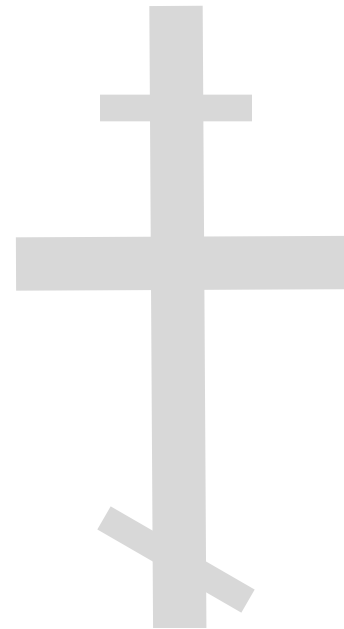
Of the numerous miracles of these wonderful saints of God, the following is especially outstanding: A widow in Edessa had a young daughter who was to marry a Gothic soldier serving in the Greek army. As the mother feared for her daughter's safety if she were to live far away, the Goth swore on the grave of the holy three martyrs that he would do no evil to the maiden, but would take her as his lawful wife, as he had already sworn that he was not already married. In reality, he did have a wife, and when he took the young maiden to his country he kept her, not as his wife but as a slave, until his lawful wife died. He then agreed with his kinsmen to bury his living slave with his dead wife. The girl tearfully prayed to the three holy martyrs to save her, and they appeared to her in the grave, and took her in an instant from the land of the Goths to Edessa, to their church. The following day when the church was opened, they found the young maiden by the tomb of the saints of God, and learned of her miraculous deliverance.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Martyrs Guria, Shamuna, and Habib the Deacon of Edessa

November 15, 2009



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Martyrs Guria, Shamuna,
and Habib the Deacon of Edessa

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

November 15, 2009

The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Thomas the New, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Paisios Velichkovsky

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy;
12:00noon Annual Voters' Meeting
Monday: Church Office Closed; 9:00a Baklawa Baking
Tuesday: 7:00p Practical Orthodox Living
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 9:00a Baklawa baking; 6:30p Vespers
Friday: 9:00a Baklawa baking; 6:30p Advent Paraklesis
Saturday: 10:00a Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos;
5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

Troparion of the Resurrection
Tone 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

Troparion

for the Resurrection—Tone 6

See above.

Troparion

for Ss. Guria, Shamuna,
and Habib—Tone 5

Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs Guria, Shamuna and Habib as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Troparion

of All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion

for Entrance of the Theotokos
Tone 4

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Eph. 2:14–22

Gospel: Luke 12:16–21

Megalynarion—Tone 8

It is truly meet and right . . .

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Nicholas Christopoulos, Christian
Christopoulos, William Christopoulos,

Christopher Wingenbach, Ilya Moundous,
Gabriel Pope.

Special Attention

- **Annual Meeting Date.** Our annual voters' meeting will be held today following the Divine Liturgy. Please all voters need to attend (63 Voters must be present for a quorum).

Building updates will be presented as well as reports for the year. The 2010 budget will be presented and voted on. Two new members of the Parish Council will be voted into office. The meeting will last no longer than one hour. We need all voters to be in attendance, however, everyone including non voters and friends of our parish are invited to come and listen to the reports (only official voters will be able to vote).

Please read your annual report thoroughly so that we will be able to approve all reports with one vote after a short period of time that will be reserved for questions.

Limited child care will be provided in the parish hall.

- **Practical Orthodox Living.** The second of the three part series presented by Deacon David will be held this Tuesday (Nov. 17th) at 7:00p in the Church. The series focuses on the practical aspects of living an Orthodox life. A time of food and fellowship will follow in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend. No child care will be provided.
- **Ladies of All Saints.** Don't forget we will be baking Mon., Wed., and if needed Fri. this week (9:00a–2:30p). Please, remember to bring your brown bag lunch and join in making this pastry. Hope to have a nice turnout. Thank you, *Mary Elizabeth*

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless
Thine inheritance.

*To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my
God.*

†**Epistle: Eph. 2:4–10 (RSV)**

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

†**Gospel: Luke 10:25–37 (RSV)**

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read?” And the lawyer answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And Jesus said to him, “You have answered right; do this, and you will

live.” But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” The lawyer said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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A Word from Our Fathers

“God wants our soul to be simple, without many thoughts and too much knowledge; like an infant that expects everything from its parents. That is why the Lord said: ‘If you do not become like children you will not be able to enter in the Kingdom of God.’ We must humbly pray to God and admit our weakness, and this way we will be able to free ourselves from our concerns and worries; just as our shadow closely follows our body, God’s mercy will follow our humility and faith.”

(from Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain)

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