

# Saintly Notes

## Great-Martyr Eustathius (September 20)

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**E**ustathius was a great Roman general during the reigns of Emperors Titus and Trajan. Though he was a pagan, Placidus (for that was his pagan name) was a just and merciful man, similar to Cornelius the Centurion, who was baptized by the Apostle Peter (Acts 10).

Out hunting one day, he pursued a stag. By God's providence, a cross appeared between the antlers of the stag and the voice of the Lord came to Placidus, directing him to go to a Christian priest and become baptized. Placidus was baptized, along with his wife and two sons. At baptism, he received the name Eustathius; his wife, Theopiste ("faithful to God"); and his sons, Agapitus and Theopistus. After his baptism, he returned to the place where he had experienced the revelation of the stag and, kneeling, gave thanks to God that He had brought him to the truth. Just then, the voice of the Lord again manifested itself to him, foretold that he would suffer for His name, and strengthened him.

Then Eustathius secretly left Rome with his family, intending to hide among the simple people and serve God in humble and unknown surroundings. Arriving in Egypt, he was immediately beset by trials. An evil barbarian abducted his wife, and both of his sons were seized by wild beasts and carried away. However, the barbarian soon lost his life, and the children were saved from the wild beasts by shepherds.

Eustathius settled in the Egyptian village of Vadisis and lived there for fifteen years as a hired laborer. Then barbarians attacked the Roman Empire, and Emperor Trajan grieved that he did not have the brave General Placidus, who had carried the victory whenever he fought. The emperor sent two of his officers to seek the great commander throughout the empire. By God's providence, these officers (who were once companions of Eustathius), came to the village of Vadisis, found Eustathius and brought him back to the emperor. Eustathius amassed an army and defeated the barbarians. On the way back to Rome, Eustathius found his wife and both sons.

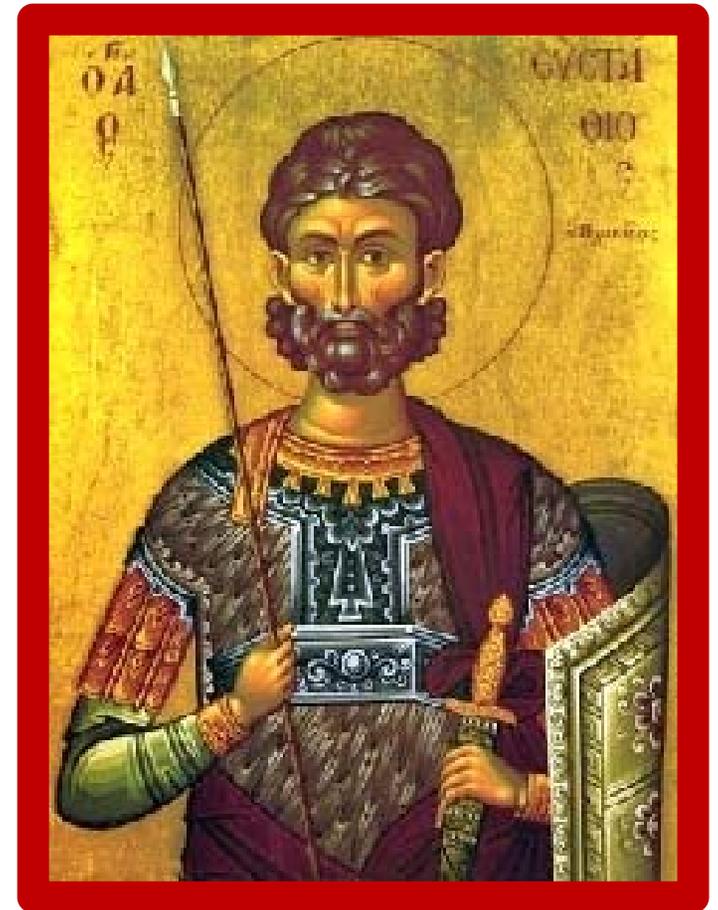
Meanwhile, Emperor Trajan had died and Emperor Hadrian was on the throne. When Hadrian summoned General Eustathius to offer sacrifices to the gods, Eustathius declined, declaring himself a Christian. The emperor subjected him and his wife and sons to torture. They were thrown to the wild beasts, but this did them no harm. Then they were cast into a red-hot metal ox. On the third day their dead bodies were removed, but they were unharmed by the fire. Thus, this glorious commander rendered *unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's* (Luke 20:25), and took up his habitation in the Eternal Kingdom of Christ our God.

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

## Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 20, 2009

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Great-Martyr Eustathius

# Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

September 20, 2009

## The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Great-martyr Eustathius and his family;

Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete;  
Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy  
**Monday:** **Church Office Closed;** 9:00a Lasagna Preparation  
**Wednesday:** 9:15a 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour Prayers; 6:30p Eve. Div. Liturgy for St. Thekla;  
8:00p Potluck Supper  
**Saturday:** 10:00a Div. Lit. for the Repose of St. John the Theologian; 5:30p  
Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

## First Antiphon

Refrain

Through the intercession of the Theotokos...

## Second Antiphon

Refrain

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast crucified  
in the flesh; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

## Third Antiphon

Refrain & Troparion  
of the Holy Cross—Tone 1

The Lord reigneth, let the people rage; He  
sitteth upon the cherubim, let the earth be  
moved. The Lord is great in Zion; and He is  
high above all the people. Let them give  
thanks to Thy great Name, for it is holy.

*Troparion of the Holy Cross:* O Lord, save  
Thy people and bless Thine inheritance,  
granting to Thy people victory over all their  
enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross  
preserving Thy commonwealth.

## Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

## Troparion

for 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.

## Troparion

for the Holy Cross—Tone 1

See above.

## Troparion

for St. Eustathios and His Family  
Tone 4

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous  
contest for Thee, received as the prize the  
crowns of incorruption and life from Thee,  
our immortal God. For since they possessed  
Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and  
wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless  
presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers,  
save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

## 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 the Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross—Tone 4

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was  
lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God,  
bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation  
which is called by Thy Name; make glad in  
Thy might those who lawfully govern, that  
with them we may be led to victory over our  
adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of  
peace and a trophy invincible.

## The Trisagion

Holy God . . .

## Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

*Epistle:* 2 Cor. 6:1–10

*Gospel:* Luke 5:1–11

## Agalynarion—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

Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen,  
Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg.

### Special Attention

- **Ground Breaking for New Temple and Education Wing.** We have confirmed that the ground breaking ceremony for our new temple will be on the weekend of Oct 30–Nov 1. Bishop Antoun will be with us.
- **Church School.** All Saints Church School has begun. Our Church School Coordinator this year is Gretchen Ormond (469-5596).
- **Adult Class with Fr Nicholas has Begun.** The topic will be the Sacrament of Marriage. All adults are welcome to attend.
- **CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS!** All Saints and our Archdiocese want to stay in touch with our college students. If you are in college please give your email and mailing address to Dcn. David. If you have children in college please let Dcn. David know their email and mailing addresses as well. Our Archdiocese has a special college department that works hard to help students maintain their faith while away from home.
- **Collection for Maleku's Family and Funeral Expenses.** To date we have received \$4225.00 for funeral expenses. This more than covers all the funeral expenses and the excess will be given to Lichia and her family. May God bless all of you for your generosity and love.

## Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

### **Prokeimenon:**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **†Epistle: Gal. 2:16–20 (RSV)**

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### **†Gospel: Mark 8:34—9:1 (RSV)**

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and

whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

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## A Word from Our Fathers

*(On the Experience of Prayer)*

“When we become so conscious of our frailty that our spirit despairs, somehow, in an unknown fashion, a wondrous light appears, proclaiming life incorruptible.

When the darkness within us is so appalling that we are paralyzed with dread, the same light will turn black night into bright day. When we properly condemn ourselves to eternal infamy and in agony descend into the pit, of a sudden some strength from Above will lift our spirit to the heights. When we are overwhelmed by the feeling of our own utter nothingness, the uncreated light transfigures and brings us like sons into the Father’s house.”

*(Archimandrite Sophrony)*

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