

# **SOPHIA!**

**A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BOARD OF THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN  
SUMMER 2008**

**DIANNE O'REGAN, EDITOR**



***DID YOU KNOW . . .that the word "saint" comes from the Latin word "sanctus" and means one who is holy, and has been set apart for God's service. A saint is a person who has cooperated with God's grace to the extent that his or her holiness is beyond doubt. It is because we see our Lord's countenance reflected most clearly in their faces that we publicly praise them, ask them to pray for us, & are encouraged to follow their examples.***

## **TOPIC OF THE MONTH . . . PRAYER & THE SAINTS**

The women disciples of the Lord were the first to receive the news of His Glorious Resurrection and were directed by the Angel to go and tell the others. Throughout the history of the Church, women have suffered and died for their faith in Christ. They took to heart the words of St. Paul who wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

### **Discussion Topics:**

- 1. *Orthodox Women Saints.*** This site can be accessed by going to [www.antiochian.org/AW-WomenSaints](http://www.antiochian.org/AW-WomenSaints). Ask your group to look for their saint, or randomly pick a saint from the list. Have them print off the page and read it to the group (or individually meditate on the saint's life).
- 2. *Why Pray to the Saints?*** Asking for intercession and praying to the saints has been performed by the faithful since the earliest days of Christianity. As Scripture indicates, those in Heaven are aware of the prayers of those on earth. St. John writes that the saints in Heaven intercede for us and offer our prayers to God under the form of "golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8)
- 3. *Prayer versus Worship.*** True worship is reserved for God alone, but not all prayer is worship. When we pray to the saints, we are simply asking them to pray to God on our behalf.
- 4. *The Church's Prayers to the Saints.*** Try to think of passages in the Liturgy – or other services – where we ask for the intercession of the saints. For instance, in Psalm 103, we pray, "Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will!" In Psalm 148, we cry, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his hosts!"
- 5. *Praying to the Saints While Alone.*** As we have discussed in past editions, it is easy to forget to pray, and we should not fear that we are not incorrectly. Prayers to a saint may be as simple as: "St. \_\_\_\_\_, Holy Mother of God and all the saints, who have pleased God in Your lives; pray to Christ my Lord that I might live this day in peace, love and humility." Or you may say, "Pray unto God for me, O Holy St. \_\_\_\_\_ well-pleasing to God: for I turn to you, who are a speedy helper and intercessor for my soul."
- 6. *Praying to the Saints With Others.*** Perhaps you would like to pray in a group or with your prayer partner. By doing so, you can learn about the lives of other saints. Don't be hesitant to ask someone else to pray for – or with – you. We are all part of the Communion of Christ!

**WOMEN SAINTS – AND FEASTS – FOR MAY & JUNE**

**May**

- 1 St. Tamara, Queen of Georgia
- 2 Icon of the Life Giving Spring of the Theotokos
- 3 St. Maura of Antinoe
- 4 St. Pelagia of Tarsus; St. Monica of Hippo
- 5 St. Irene of Thessalonica
- 7 Icons of the Mother of God
- 9 Sts. Callinke & Aquilina of Lycia
- 10 St. Thais of Egypt; St. Isidora, Fool of Tabena
- 11 Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women
- 13 St. Glyceria at Heraclea
- 14 Icons of the Mother of God
- 16 St. Crescentia at Lucania; St. Musa of Rome
- 17 St. Junia of the Seventy
- 18 Sts. Christinam Alexandra & Tecusa of Ancyra
- 19 Entrance of St. Nino into Georgia; St. Theotima
- 20 St. Lydia of Philippisia
- 22 Sts. Constantine & Helen; Icons of the Theotokos
- 23 St. Isidore of Rustov
- 24 St. Marciana of Galatia
- 25 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
- 26 St. Helen, Daughter of Alphaeus
- 27 St. Theodora of Alexandria
- 28 Icons of the Mother of God
- 29 St. Theodosia of Tyre
- 30 St. Macrina, Grandmother of St. Basil

**June**

- 1 St. Charito at Rome
- 2 St. Sofia
- 3 St. Paula at Byzantium
- 4 Sts. Martha & Mary, Sisters of Lazarus
- 5 Sts. Selenia & Irene of Egypt
- 6 Sts. Thekla & Susanna at Salerno
- 7 Sts. Priscilla & Lucina at Rome
- 8 Icons of the Mother of God
- 9 Five Martyred Nuns at Persia
- 10 St. Antonina at Constantinople
- 11 Revelation of the Hymn “It is Truly Meet”
- 12 Transfer of the Relics of St. Anna of Kashin
- 13 St. Aquilina of Byblos
- 15 St. Crescentia at Lucania
- 17 Martyred Mothers of Atchara
- 18 Icon of the Mother of God
- 19 St. Mary, Mother of the Apostle James
- 20 Icon of the Mother of God “Directress”
- 21 St. Anastasia of Serbia
- 22 St. Juliana of Constantinople
- 23 St. Agrippina of Rome; Icon of Theotokos
- 24 Synaxis of St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist
- 25 St. Febronia of Nisibis
- 27 St. Joanna, the Myrrhbearer

**WOMEN SAINTS – AND FEASTS – FOR JULY & AUGUST**

**July**

- 1 St. Angelina of Serbia
- 2 Placing of the Robe of the Theotokos
- 4 St. Martha, Mother of St. Simeon
- 5 Sts. Elizabeth and Barbara, New-Martyrs Russia
- 6 St. Martha with her husband and children
- 7 St. Eudokia, Grand Duchess of Moscow
- 8 Our Lady of Sitka Icon
- 10 Forty-five Holy Martyrs at Nicepolis
- 11 St. Euphemia, the All Praised; St. Olga of Russia
- 12 St. Veronica
- 13 St. Sarah of Libya; All Saints of Pskov
- 15 St. Julita of Tarsus
- 16 St. Valentina at Caesarea; St. Julia of Carthage
- 17 St. Marina of Antioch
- 19 St. Macrina, Sister of St. Basil; St. Militso
- 21 St. Salome of Georgia
- 22 St. Mary Magdaline; St. Marcella of Chios
- 24 St. Christina of Tyre
- 25 Dormition of St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos
- 26 St. Parasceva of Rome
- 27 Ninety Venerable Sisters of Mantinea
- 28 Icons of the Mother of God
- 29 St. Serapia of Antioch; St. Theodota
- 30 St. Angelina of Serbia

**August**

- 1 Seven Holy Maccabee Martyrs
- 3 St. Salome, Mother of Sts. James & John
- 4 St. Eudokia of Persia
- 5 St. Nona, Mother of Gregory the Theologian
- 7 St. Theodora of Sihla; Icon of Theotokos
- 10 St. Susanna
- 13 St. Concordia of Rome
- 15 Forefeast of the Dormition of Theotokos
- 16 Icon of the Theotokos of St. Theodore
- 17 St. Juliana of Syria
- 18 Afterfeast of the Dormition
- 19 St. Theklha of Palestine
- 21 St. Bassa of Edessa and her sons
- 22 St. Anthusa; St. Eulakia of Barcelona
- 23 Leavetaking of the Dormition
- 24 St. Syra of Persia
- 26 St. Natalia of Nicomedia
- 28 St. Anna the Prophetess
- 29 St. Theodora of Salonica
- 30 Placing of the Sash of the Theotokos

**Find these blessed women and more at [www.antiochian.org/women](http://www.antiochian.org/women)**