

# *Iconography*

---

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

Class #19

March 07, 2021

- St Theodora
- St Alexios the Man of God
- St. Andrew the Apostle
- St. Christopher
- St. Methodia of Kimolos
- Anapeson - Christ Reclining and Theotokos
- St Ioulitta and Kryikos
- St Phanourios
- St. Anna and the Theotokos
- St. Ioakhim
- St Theodora

# Iconography



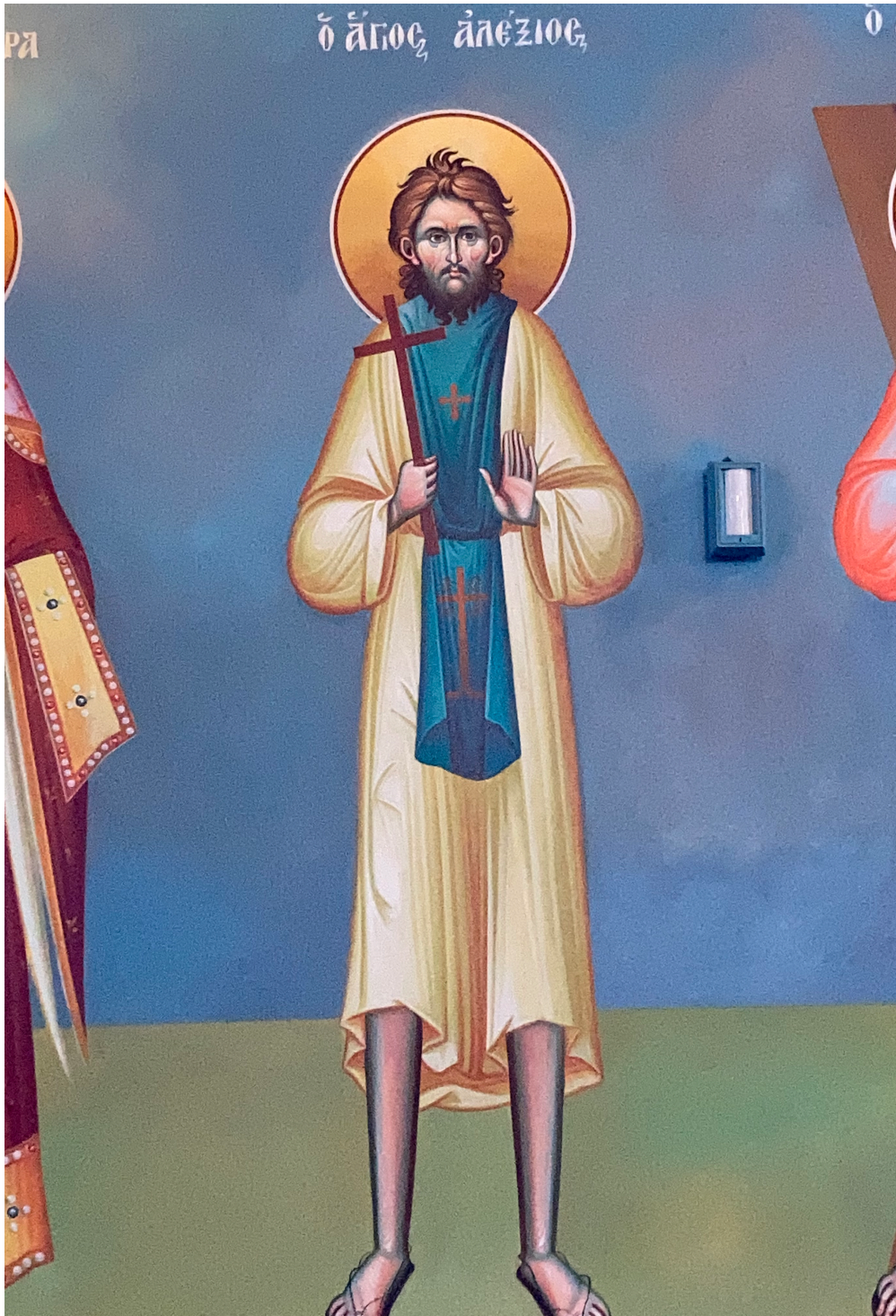
# *Theonography*

---

St. Theodora (Nov 14)

St Theodora was the wife of Saint Justinian the emperor and lived during the sixth century. The Empress Theodora was at first a notorious harlot and actress, and an adherent of the Monophysite heresy, however, she repented. After becoming Empress, she led a virtuous life, maintaining purity of both soul and body. She also provided wise counsel for her husband the emperor Justinian during his reign, (Emperor Justinian - the 5th Ecumenical Council). She also saved his throne during the Nika riots of 532 through her political intelligence and expertise. St. Theodora reposed in 548.

# Iconography



Caption

# *Iconography*

---

## St. Alexis the Man of God (March 17)

St Alexis was born in Rome to high ranking and wealthy parents, Euphemianus and Aglaida. Early on Alexis would delve into Scriptures and wanted to leave the world. However his parents had arranged for him to marry. Immediately after the wedding, Alexis boarded a boat to Mesopotamia where there was the wonder working icon of Christ that the Lord Himself had sent to King Abgar. There Alexis clothed himself as a beggar and spent seventeen years praying to God in the vestibule of the Church of the Theotokos.

When it became known that he had become a holy man, he fled Edesa for Laodicea. However, the boat was blown off course and arrived at Rome. There, Alexis went to the house of his father to continue his life of self-denial. His father did not recognize him, but allowed him to stay in a hut in his courtyard out of charity. Alexis remains there for another seventeen years living only on bread and water. Mistreated by his father's servants, he endured faithfully to the end. His parents and wife who had then discovered his true identity. His head is preserved in the Church of St. Laurus in the Peloponnese.

# Iconography



Caption

# Iconography

---

St. Andrew the Apostle. (Nov 30)

Gospel reading - John: 35-41

*Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"*

*The two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"*

*They said to Him, Rabbi (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are you staying?"*

*He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).*

*One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated the Christ).*

Andrew, known as the First-called, the son of Jonah and brother of Peter, was born in Bethsaida and was a fisherman by trade. He was first a disciple of John the Baptist. Following the descent of the Holy Spirit, St. Andrew preached the Gospel in Byzantium and Thrace, then in the lands along the Danube and in Russia around the Black Sea and finally in Epirus, Greece and the Peloponnese. He was crucified in Patras of Achaia, where he was hung on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of St. Andrew.

# Iconography



Caption



# *Iconography*

---

## St Christopher (May 9)

St. Christopher was at first named Reprobos. Seeing the Christians persecuted, he rebuked the tyrants for their cruelty. Soldiers were sent to bring him to appear before the ruler; but through the many miracles he performed in the name of Christ, he converted them to Christ, and with them was baptized, receiving the name Christopher. After he appeared before the ruler, he was imprisoned and two harlots were sent to seduce him, but he converted them also, and encouraged them in their martyrdom. Thus St. Christopher's life ended when he was beheaded in the days of Decius.

As Christopher means "Christ-bearer," he is depicted carrying the infant Jesus on his shoulders. Due to his enormous height and strength, his profession was a ferry-man who would for a price carry people across the river on his shoulders.

# Iconography



Caption

# Iconography

---

## St. Methodia of Kimolos (Oct 5)

St. Methodia was born in 1865 on the island of Kimolos in the Cyclades to pious and God-fearing parents. From childhood she wanted to devote herself entirely to the service of God and the Holy Church. She actively worked against the passions and delighted only in what profits the soul. While she desired the angelic life, her parents married her to a sailor from Chios. However, shortly after their wedding her husband was drowned on a voyage to Asia Minor. While Methodia mourned the loss of her husband, she took it as a sign from God to do what she had always longed for. She received the holy angelic Habit, taking the name of Methodia living in an isolated cell close to a fort, and giving herself up to prayer and vigil. She would leave her isolation only when the needs of others pressed upon her. She wrought many healings and, having "*fought the good fight*" reposed in the Lord, in her forty-third year, on October 5th.

# Iconography



Caption

# Iconography

Anapeson - Reclining Christ and Theotokos (Dec 25)

Scripture reading(s)

Genesis 49:9

*Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, you have gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?"*

Isaiah 11:10

*And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign for the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."*

Amos 3:8

*"The Lion has roared, who will not fear?"*

Revelation 5:5

*And one of the elders said to me, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals."*

Psalms 120

*I lifted my eyes to the mountains: From where shall my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Let not your foot be moved. Neither let Him who keeps you slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord shall keep you; the Lord is your shelter at your right hand. The sun shall not burn you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord shall keep your soul.*

# *Iconography*

---

*The Lord shall keep your coming in and going out from this present time and unto the ages.*

In this icon we see the Christ Child not sitting or lying down, but reclining (*anapeson*) to show that he is not a mere man, but God in human flesh. It depicts simultaneously the Divine and human natures of Christ. The youth of the Son of Man is depicted in his beardless face, while He shows features of adulthood to portray that He is the eternal Son of God and long-awaited Messiah. He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, at peace when He reclines, but fearsome when He roars.

# Iconography



Caption

# Iconography

---

St. Ioulitta (Julitta) and St. Kyrikos (July 15)

The Holy Martyrs Ioulitta and Kyrikos lived in the city of Iconic in the province of Lykaoneia in Asia Minor. St. Ioulitta was descended from an influential, well to do family and was a Christian. Widowed early on, she raised her three-year old son Kyrikos in the Christian faith. During the time of the persecution against Christians initiated by the emperor Diocletian, St. Ioulitta, her son Kyrikos and two servants fled the city, leaving behind her home, property and other servants.

Hiding her noble rank, she traveled first to Seleucia and then to Tarsus where she was eventually recognized, arrested and brought to trial before governor Alexander. Strengthened by the Lord, she fearlessly answered the judge's questions, firmly confessing her faith in Christ. The governor gave orders to beat St. Ioulitta, who would not relent in her confession of faith saying "I am a Christian, and will not offer sacrifice to demons."

Her son, Kyrikos cried seeing his mother tortured so the governor lifted him up on his lap, but Kyrikos kicked the governor in the stomach crying out: "I am a Christian, let me go to my mother!" Where as the governor

in a rage over this humiliation, flung the boy from the tribunal and kicked him down the stone steps where Kyrikos struck his head on the sharp edges and died. Seeing that her son had passed, St. Ioulitta gave thanks to God for permitting Kyrikos to be perfected before her, receiving the crown of martyrdom. After continued tortures, St. Ioulitta was beheaded with a sword.



# Iconography



Caption

# *Iconography*

---

## St. Phanourios (August 27)

Little is known about the background of St. Phanourios. Traditions says that when the island of Rhodes had been conquered by Moslems, the new ruler of the island decided to rebuild the city walls which had been damaged in previous wars. Several ruined buildings were near the fortress, and stones from these buildings were used to repair the walls at the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century.

While working on the fortress, the ruins of a church were uncovered. Several icons, most of them badly damaged, were found on the floor. One icon, of St. Phanourios, looked as if it were painted that very day. The local bishop, Nilus, was called in to see the icon. It said "St. Phanourios."

The saint is depicted as a young soldier holding a cross in his right hand with a lighted taper. In the original there are twelve scenes showing his trial, torture and giving up his soul to the Lord. The saints name sounds similar to the Greek verb "phanerono," which means "to reveal" or "to disclose." Thus comes the tradition of praying to St. Phanourios to help them find lost objects.

# Iconography



Caption

# *Iconography*

---

St. Anna and the Theotokos (Sept. 9 Joachim & Anna/Dec. 8 Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos)

St. Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, from the lineage of Levi. Matthan had three daughters: Mary, Sophia and Anna. Mary married, lived in Bethlehem and gave birth to Salome; Sophia married, also lived in Bethlehem, and gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Forerunner; Anna married Joachim in Nazareth and in old age gave birth to Mary, the Most-holy Theotokos.

Now, Joachim and Anna had lived together in marriage for fifty years, and yet had remained barren. They lived devoutly and quietly, and of all their income they spent one third on themselves, distributed one third to the poor and gave the other third to the Temple, and they were well provided for, with the exception that they were childless.

Once in their old age, they came to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice to God, the high priest Issachar reprimanded Joachim, saying: "You are not worthy that a give be accepted from your hands, for you are childless." This embarrassed and grieved the old couple who then returned to their home. The two fell before God in prayer, that He would work a miracle with them as He had done with Abraham and Sarah. Wherefore God sent the Archangel Gabriel to announce to them the birth of "a daughter most-blessed, by whom all nations on earth will be blessed and through whom the salvation of the world will come." The child Mary was taken to the Temple at age three and remained with the other maidens in the apartments of the temple. For the next seven years Anna and Joachim visited Mary until their repose, leaving Mary an orphan.

# Iconography



# *Iconography*

---

St. Ioakhim (Sept. 9 Joachim & Anna)

St. Ioakhim was of the lineage of Judah and a descendant of King David. When Ioakhim was reprimanded by the high priest Issachar he was ridiculed as one unworthy and pushed behind the others who had children. After this derision, St. Ioakhim retired to his home and in an isolated place fell to his knees praying that the Lord will visit he and Anna as He did with Abram and Sari. The Archangel Gabriel appeared to St. Ioakhim telling him that Anna would bear a “daughter by whom all nations on earth will be blessed.”

St. Ioakhim lived for eighty years at which time he reposed in the Lord.

# Iconography



Caption

# *Iconography*

---

St. Theodora (Feb. 11)

St Theodora the Righteous was the wife of the nefarious emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast. However, St. Theodora did not share in the heresy of her husband and secretly venerated the holy icons. After the death of her husband, St. Theodora governed the realm because her son Michale was a minor.

St. Theodora convened a Council, at which the Iconoclasts were anathematized, and the veneration of icons was reinstated. St. Theodora established the annual celebration of this event, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. St. Theodora did much for the One True Holy and Catholic and Apostolic Church and fostered a firm devotion to Orthodoxy in her son Michael.

When Michael came of age, St. Theodora retired from governing and spent the remainder of her life in the monastery of St. Euphrosyne and reposed peacefully around the year 867.