

Feast of Christ the King: Last Sunday of October



IN 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted the **Feast of Christ the King** (formally known as the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe) for the last Sunday of October. In 1970, its Roman Catholic observance was moved to the final Sunday in Ordinary Time or the Sunday before the First Sunday of Advent in the Roman Calendar. As Byzantine Catholics, we observe and celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on its original date, the last Sunday of October.

Kontakion from the Feast of Christ the King

“Let us fall down before Christ our God, the only wise and immortal King of ages, and adore Him, saying: “To You is given the power and the glory and the kingdom, and all nations are subject to You.

Your power is eternal power and Your Kingdom is indestructible. The Eternal King, Jesus Christ, has become a king for our sake.”

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THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul, and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St. Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Saviour's earthly life. After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to St. Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied St. Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry. After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St. Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits St. Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. “Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons,” said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St. Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St. Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), St. Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).



Celebrating Our Faith

Byzantine Catholic Worship: Our Church, Its Customs and Rich Heritage

OCTOBER is the month of goldenrod and field asters, the flowers that are called the stars of autumn. It is also the month of roses - spiritual roses with which we lovingly crown the Queen of Heaven. In other words, it is the month of the Most Holy Rosary, that beautiful prayer in which we meditate on the chief events of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother.

In the *Joyful Mysteries* we think of Jesus' becoming Man and giving Himself up to Mary's care. In the *Sorrowful Mysteries* we dwell on the price Our Saviour paid to free us from guilt of sin. The *Glorious Mysteries* remind us of heaven, our eternal home, where Jesus went to prepare a place for us. If we say the Rosary faithfully and with devotion, we endear ourselves to Our Lady.

By meditating on the lives of Jesus and Mary, we are inspired to follow their holy example. We learn to be humble, obedient, and pure; to love everyone; to be patient in time of sorrow. We learn too, to hope in the promises of Our Lord and to will for ourselves only what God wills.

It was largely because he said the Rosary frequently that St. Conrad of Parzham obtained the grace to lead a life of great holiness. When a young boy, he used to recite the Rosary as he walked to school, and he persuaded his playmates to follow his example. Afterwards he became a St. of God.

Let us, in the month of October, imitate St. Gerard, and recite the Rosary frequently, at least once each day. When we say the Rosary, we make our Guardian Angel very happy, for he knows how Mary rewards those who honour her as Queen of the Most Holy Rosary.



Sister Lucy of Fatima Speaks on the Rosary

“The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all, spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families, of the families of the world, or of the religious communities, or even of the life of peoples and nations, that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.

With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves, we will sanctify ourselves, we will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls.”

The Holy Apostles Thomas, James, son of Alphaeus, and Evangelist Luke

DURING THE LITURGICAL or CHURCH YEAR, in the month of October, three important figures are commemorated: Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas (October 6), Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus (October 9), and Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (October 18).

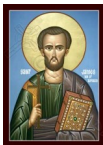


Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Saviour. According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." In Slavonic, it says, "The Belief of Thomas." When St. Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur [Melipur], the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos.

THE HOLY APOSTLE JAMES was the son of Alphaeus and brother of the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew. When our Lord Jesus Christ, abiding on Earth in the flesh, chose simple and pious men for the dignity of the apostolate, to send forth to preach the Gospel throughout the world, He also chose this James, and numbered him among the choir of apostles as one worthy. James became one of the twelve apostles, an eyewitness and minister of Christ, the preacher of His mysteries and His follower.

Having received, with the other Apostles, the Holy Spirit, Who descended upon them in the likeness of the tongues of fire, he went to many places among the Gentiles, including Gaza and Eleutheropolis, to preach Christ and guide the erring to the path of salvation. Aflame with the fire of divine zeal, he burned up the thorns of ungodliness, smashed idols to pieces, destroyed their temples, healed diverse illnesses, drove evil spirits out of people, and brought a great multitude of people to Christ. Having sowed the seed of the Word of God in people's hearts, James planted faith and piety, for which reason he was called the "Divine Seed."



Having gathered a harvest of people for salvation, he ended his earthly course as an emulator of the suffering of Christ. While proclaiming the good news of salvation in the Egyptian town of Ostrakina, he was arrested and sentenced to crucifixion, and in this manner, he surrendered his soul into the hands of God.

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Autumn Reflections: An Enchanting & Beautiful Season

by Rev. George C. Powell

AUTUMN is many things. It is the gathering and harvesting of nature's bounty. It is a flight of Canadian geese driving a wedge through low-scudding clouds, their wild, melancholy cries filling the sky with summer's requiem. It is dawn's benediction of a season that has no equal. Autumn is luscious melons, squashes, and pumpkins, along with earth-smelling potatoes. It is wild grapes hanging high and purple against the sky, and black walnuts waiting the first hard frost to bring them down. It is grey squirrels, more gracefully excited than ever, as they gather their winter's supply of provisions in this exotic wonderland. It is bittersweet, with its berries bright as a persimmon, and fat bayberries clustering on the stem, begging to be plucked.

Autumn is a maze of leaf-colour in all its glory. There are infinite shades of yellow, red, orange, vermillion, bronze, and gold. Yellow is definitely the domain of the willow, birch, maple, beech, aspen and eastern redbud. Orange belongs to the chestnut, white and black oak, while the sugar maple, the scarlet oak, sumac, dogwood, black and sweet gum display a variety of reds, browns, crimson, and rippling gold. Even scrub oak is magnificent in its purple-bronze. Dogwood drops its deep-red leaves, and grape fern spreads its purple lace against a warm, gray granite of an old stone wall.

And yet, this is but the beginning of autumn's splendour. Face the October morning sun and you will sense its soothing warmth. But autumn is also a chill in the air at nightfall, which arrives with unseemly haste. Just after the equinox around Sept. 21, when nights become longer and cooler, waves of honking geese and wild ducks begin their annual migration — another spectacle of autumn's wonder.



Only two weeks in early autumn nature completes its cycle and displays its autumn brilliance. Reap a generous portion of this gorgeous pageantry. It will make winter less bleak, and life more enjoyable.

St. Demetrius, from Whose Tomb Myrrh Streams Forth

THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS GREAT-MARTYR DEMETRIUS was a Christian and the only son of the military commander of Thessalonica in the early fourth century. Because of this, he most carefully cherished and educated. When his father died, Demetrius was appointed by Emperor Maximian to take his place. Maximian was an opponent of Christ and charged Demetrius to persecute and to kill the Christians in that city.

Instead, Demetrius disobeyed Maximian and openly confessed and preached Christianity. Hearing of this, the Emperor was furious and on his way back from battles against the Sarmathians, he went to Thessalonica to look into the matter. He summoned Demetrius and questioned him about his faith. Demetrius confessed his belief as well as his disgust for idolatry (and thus openly criticizing the Emperor himself). The enraged Emperor cast him into prison, and Demetrius, knowing his fate, had his servant Lupus give his wealth to the poor (being glad that suffering for Christ was to be his lot).