

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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Sunday: Orthros at 9:30 AM & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

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Venerable Cassiani the Hymnographer

Commemorated on September 7

Saint Cassiani (Cassiané) is a well-known Byzantine poet (ποιητρια), who lived during the reign of Emperor Theophilos (829 – 842).

She was tonsured about the year 820, and founded a convent on Xerolophos, one of Constantinople's seven hills. There (according to the monk George the Sinful) she led "an ascetic and philosophical life" which was pleasing to God. She was an energetic Igoumeness who not only regulated the life of the convent, but also found time to pursue her literary interests. She combined the talents of poet, theologian and musician, writing hymns and composing musical settings for them. Originally sung by her nuns, many of her compositions have enduring value. At least twenty-three of her hymns were later included in the Church's liturgical books.

One of Saint Cassiani's most famous hymns is sung during Matins on Holy Wednesday, on the subject of the woman who had fallen into many sins, which is based on Saint Luke's Gospel (7:36-50).

Another of her hymns is sung in the Canon of Matins for Holy Saturday, and is repeated at the Midnight Office on Holy Pascha: "Do not weep for me, O Mother, beholding in the tomb the Son Whom thou hast conceived without seed in thy womb, for I shall arise. . ."

Saint Cassiani is not mentioned in the Synaxaristes (Synaxaristés), yet the inhabitants of Kasos, because of the similarity of her name with that of their island, celebrate her Feast Day on September 7. A special Church Service was composed in her honor, and it was published in Alexandria in 1889 by the "Reformed" (or "Reorganized") printing house.

It is strange, however, that this Service was dedicated to Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria, who in turn gave it to Metropolitan Germanos (Germanós) of Thebes to be printed (on September 1, 1889). Thus, Cassiani's glorification by the Church of Alexandria was somehow formalized, as the inhabitants of Kasos desired.

For centuries Saint Cassiani's name has appeared at the end of all the lists of Byzantine poets. The first known list was compiled by Nikephoros Kallistos Xanthopoulos (Nikēphóros Kállistos Xanthopoulos) in the first half of the XIV century.

Saint Cassiani is depicted among the holy ascetics and other monastics in the icon for the Triumph of Orthodoxy on the first Sunday of Lent.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On September 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity of our Most-holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity.

Through the intercessions of Thy Mother, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

**Reader: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ الْهَي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَةِ.

يَا إِخْوَةُ، أَنْظَرُوا مَا أَعْظَمَ الْكِتَابَاتِ الَّتِي كَتَبْتُهَا إِلَيْكُمْ بِيَدِي. إِنَّ كُلَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُرْضُوا

بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يُلْزِمُونَكُمْ أَنْ تَخْتَبِتُوا، وَإِنَّمَا ذَلِكَ لِئَلَّا يُضْطَهَدُوا مِنْ أَجْلِ صَلِيبِ الْمَسِيحِ. لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْتَبِتُونَ

هُمْ أَنْفُسُهُمْ لَا يَحْفَظُونَ النَّامُوسَ بَلْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَخْتَبِتُوا لِيَقْتَحِرُوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ. أَمَّا أَنَا، فَحَاشَى لِي أَنْ

أَفْتَحِرَ إِلَّا بِصَلِيبِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِهِ صُلِبَ الْعَالَمُ لِي وَأَنَا صُلِبْتُ لِلْعَالَمِ. لِأَنَّهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ

لَيْسَ الْخِتَانُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا الْقَلْفُ بَلِ الْخَلِيقَةُ الْجَدِيدَةُ. وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ يَسْلُكُونَ بِحَسَبِ هَذَا الْقَانُونِ، فَعَلَيْهِمْ سَلَامٌ

وَرَحْمَةً وَعَلَى إِسْرَائِيلِ اللَّهِ. فَلَا يَجْلِبُ عَلَيَّ أَحَدٌ أَتْعَاباً فِيمَا بَعْدُ، فَإِنِّي حَامِلٌ فِي جَسَدِي سِمَاتِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ.
نِعْمَةً رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ مَعَ رُوحِكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ. آمِينَ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of the man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدَيْسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: لَمْ يَصْعَدْ أَحَدٌ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ إِلَّا الَّذِي نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ الَّذِي هُوَ فِي السَّمَاءِ.

وَكَمَا رَفَعَ مُوسَى الْحَيَّةَ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ، هَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يُرْفَعَ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ. لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونُ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَالَمَ حَتَّى بَدَّلَ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ بَلْ تَكُونُ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يُرْسِلِ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ لِيَدِينِ الْعَالَمَ، بَلْ لِيُخَلِّصَ بِهِ الْعَالَمَ.

THE DOXASTICON OF NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE SIX

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

This is the day of the Lord; wherefore, rejoice ye nations; for behold the chamber of Light, the scroll of the Word of life hath come forth from the womb; the gate facing the east hath been born. Wherefore, she awaiteth the entrance of the High Priest. And she alone admitted Christ into the universe for salvation of our souls.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُّوسِ.

هَذَا هُوَ يَوْمُ الرَّبِّ، فَابْتَهِجُوا أَيُّهَا الشُّعُوبُ. لِأَنَّهُ هُوَذَا خِدْرُ النُّورِ، وَسِيفُ كَلِمَةِ الْحَيَاةِ، قَدْ وَرَدَتْ مِنَ الْحَشَا.

وَإِذْ إِنَّ الْبَابَ الْمُتَّجِهَ نَحْوَ الْمَشَارِقِ قَدْ وُلِدَتْ، فَهِيَ تَنْتَظِرُ دُخُولَ الْكَاهِنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَهِيَ وَحْدَهَا أُدْخَلَتْ

الْمَسِيحَ وَحْدَهُ إِلَى الْمَسْكُونَةِ لِخَلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

الآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

أَنْتِ هِيَ الْفَائِقَةُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْبَرَكَاتِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءِ، لِأَنَّ الْجَحِيمَ قَدْ سُبِّيتِ بِوَسِيطَةِ الْمُتَجَبِّدِ مِنْكَ، وَأَدَمَ

دُعِيَ ثَانِيَةً، وَاللَّعْنَةُ بَادَتْ، وَحَوَاءَ انْعَتَقَتْ، وَالْمَوْتُ أُمِيتَ، وَنَحْنُ قَدْ حَيِينَا. فَلِذَلِكَ نُسَبِّحُ هَاتِعِينَ: مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتِ

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، يَا مَنْ هَكَذَا سُرَّ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae

Commemorated on September 6

In Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos, there was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring.

This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter. The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl actually did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ.

At this church of the holy Chief Commander Michael, a certain pious man by the name of Archippus served for sixty years as church custodian. By his preaching and by the example of his saintly life he brought many pagans to faith in Christ. With the general malice of that time towards Christians, and especially against Archippus, the pagans thought to destroy the church in order to prevent people from coming to that holy place of healing, and at the same time kill Archippus.

Toward this end they made a confluence of the Lykokaperos and Kufos Rivers and directed its combined flow against the church. Saint Archippus prayed fervently to the Chief Commander Michael to ward off the danger. Through his prayer the Archangel Michael appeared at the temple, and with a blow of his staff, opened a wide fissure in a rock and commanded the rushing torrents of water to flow into it. The temple remained unharmed. Seeing such an awesome miracle, the pagans fled in terror. Archippus and the Christians gathered in church glorified God and gave thanks to the holy Archangel Michael for the help. The place where the rivers plunged into the fissure received the name "Chonae", which means "plunging."

The Chudov ("of the Miracle") monastery in Moscow is named for this Feast.

