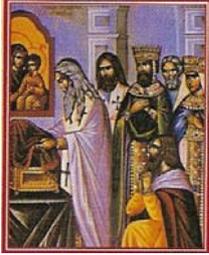


July 2

B + *The Placing of the Honorable Robe of Our All-holy Sovereign Lady Theotokos in Blachernae*



The holy robe was found by two pious brothers, Galbuis and Candidus in the house of a certain Jewish woman in Nazareth. The honorable robe was verified as genuine by the testimony of pious people and by its wonderworking power. In the year 474 it was transferred to Constantinople and with honor placed in the Blachernae temple of the Mother of God (Refer to August 31).

Troparion, tone 8

**O Ever-virgin Theotokos, Protectress of mankind,
You have given a majestic blessing to your city,
The robe and sash of your immaculate body,
Remained incorrupt throughout your seedless child-bearing:
For time and nature are renewed through you.
Therefore let us pray to you:
Grant peace to your city and great mercy to our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4,

**O Pure One, full of the grace of God,
You bestowed your sacred robe,
With which you covered your holy body,
As a garment of incorruption to all the faithful
O Protection of all mankind:
Let us lovingly celebrate its placing,
And let us cry aloud to you in awe:
Rejoice, O Virgin, Praise of Christians.**

Epistle: Heb. 9:1-7; sel. 320. **Gospel:** Lk. 10:38-42, 11:27-23, sel. 54.

See: If this feast falls on a weekday (except for Sunday), we do not sing from the Octoechos, except the Dogmatikon for "Lord, I call" in Friday Vespers.

St. Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem

He is known as a zealous and firm defender of the Orthodox faith. Defending Orthodoxy at the Councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon, St. Juvenal underwent much suffering from heretics and even was removed from his cathedra by them for a short time. He died in the year 458.

Repose of Metropolitan Photius of Kiev

Born a Greek in Morea, having led a life of asceticism of Christian piety under the direction of a certain starets [elder], he was consecrated as the Metropolitan of Kiev and all Russia in 1408. Ruling the church for 20 years, he was a strict zealot of the church canons and labored much in standing up for the unity of Russian Metropolia. Together with this he eliminated many disorders in church life, tirelessly struggled against the ignorance and vices of the people, against the heresy of the Strigolniks and prevented civil wars among the princes. The hierarch died in the year of 1431 wonderfully knowing beforehand the time of his death. His relics are in the Moscow Dormition Cathedral.

Commemoration of the Akhtirka Icon of the All-holy Theotokos

This wonderworking icon was found in 1739 in the city of Akhtirka (Kharkov Province) by the priest of the Protection Church, Vasili [Basil] Danilov, while cutting grass in the garden. At first the priest placed it in his house where various wonders and signs were performed for three years. Following this the icon was recognized as wonder-working and placed in the parish (now a cathedral) temple for public veneration. On the icon the Mother of God is depicted praying before the crucifixion. In 1844, by decree of the Holy Synod, a cross procession with the Akhtirka icon is established, which occurs on the eve of the feast (on Saturday) of Pentecost, from the Protection Cathedral city of Akhtirka to the Akhtirka Savior-Trinity Monastery (Kharkov Diocese), but on the Sunday of All Saints it is returned from the monastery to Akhtirka.

Theodotiev Icon of the Mother of God

It appeared in 1487 in the village of Theodotiev in the Ryazan principedom and was glorified for many wonders. Now it is found in the Ryazan cathedral.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0224-0225.
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