

## HEALING SAINTS REMEMBERED IN THE UNCTION SERVICE

[www.abbamoses.com](http://www.abbamoses.com) edited by Phyllis Meshel Onest

### † Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenary Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor (3rd c.) Nov 1

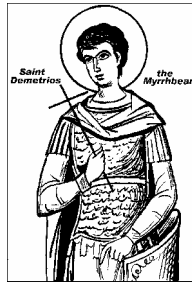


Three pairs of *Unmercenary Physicians (Anargyri)* named Cosmas and Damian are commemorated (also on October 17, and on July 1). The two commemorated

November 1 lived near Ephesus in Asia Minor. They were of noble birth and well-educated in all the branches of higher learning; but they turned away from worldly knowledge to practice medicine without charge for anyone who sought their help, caring for the rich as well as poor, and even for animals. They used none of the secular tools of medicine, but relied only on the Name of Christ, by which **they performed countless healings**. Both reposed in peace.

### † Holy, Glorious and Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrhbearer (306) October 26

He was born of noble parents in the city of Thessalonica. His wisdom and distinction in battle earned him rapid advancement in the service of the Empire: in time, he was commander of all the Roman forces in Thessaly, and Proconsul of Hellas. Despite these worldly honors, Demetrios put his Christian faith before all and by his words and example brought many pagans to faith in Christ.



When the Emperor Maximian, a persecutor of Christians, came to Thessalonica, he appointed games and public sacrifices to celebrate his recent victory over the Scythians. Some jealous pagans used the visit to denounce Demetrios

to the Emperor. Maximian had Demetrios cast into a fetid [stinking] cell in the basement of some nearby baths. Maximian had brought with him a huge barbarian of tremendous strength named Lyaios, who fought many men in the arena and defeated them all, to the entertainment of the Emperor and the crowds.

A young Christian named **Nestor** determined to show the people that the only true strength is in Christ, visited Demetrios in his cell and asked his blessing to challenge Lyaios to combat. The Martyr made the sign of the Cross over Nestor and sent him to the arena with his blessing. Nestor, a young boy, cried out before the Emperor 'God of Demetrios, help me!' To the astonishment of the crowd, he quickly killed the mighty Lyaios. The infuriated Emperor had Nestor slain with his own sword and sent soldiers to Demetrios' cell, where they killed him with their spears.

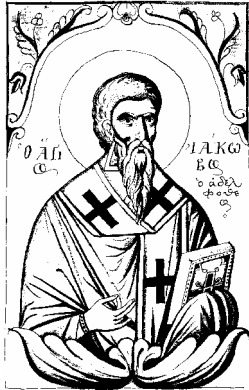
Demetrios' servant, a believer named Lupus, retrieved Demetrios' body and buried it with honor. He kept the Saint's ring and bloodstained tunic, and through them several miracles and healings occurred. When the Emperor heard of this, he had Lupus beheaded, too. As a sign of the grace that rested on the holy Demetrios, after his **death fragrant myrrh flowed abundantly from the Martyr's body, healing many of the sick**. St Demetrios has been a patron Saint of Thessalonica for many centuries.

### † Holy Hieromartyrs Hermolaus (305), Hermippus, and Hermocrates at Nicomedia July 26

These priests in Nicomedia. Hermolaus converted St Panteleimon (July 27) to Christ. When Maximian asked who had turned him from the idols, St Panteleimon named Hermolaus. (The Great Horologion notes that it had been revealed to Panteleimon that the time of Hermolaus' martyrdom was near at hand). St Hermolaus, along with Sts Hermippus and Hermocrates were arrested

when they proclaimed Christ to be the only true God. All were beheaded. **St Hermolaus, along with his disciple St Panteleimon, is counted as one of the Unmercenary Physicians.**

† **Holy Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord & First Bishop of Jerusalem**  
(63) Oct 23



His Hebrew name is Jacob. He was a close relative of Christ, and was therefore called, according to the Jewish usage of the time, his "brother." Some accounts say that he was a child of Joseph by his first marriage; others accounts say that he was the son of Joseph's brother

Cleopas and his wife Mary, who was first cousin of the Theotokos. He took the Nazirite vows of one completely consecrated to God according to the Law, and from a young age called "the Just." He is called James the Lesser in Scripture (Mark 15:40) to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee, "James the Greater." The Apostles appointed him first Bishop of Jerusalem. He presided at the earliest Council of the Church in Jerusalem, where he resolved the problem of how to receive gentile converts into the Church (see Acts 15). He wrote the New Testament Epistle bearing his name that primarily addressed Jewish converts to the Faith. About the year 62, he ascended to the peak of the Temple in Jerusalem on Passover, and there bore witness to Christ so effectively that the people cried out "Hosanna to the Son of David." At this, the Scribes and Pharisees, fearing that all the people would be converted to Christ, cast him down to the ground. By God's grace, he survived long enough to rise, kneel and pray, like his Master, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." He was then clubbed to death by one of the scribes.

**The first Epistle reading of the Unction Service, James 5:10-16, contains the verse related to anointing with oil. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14**

† **Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist St John the Theologian**  
September 26



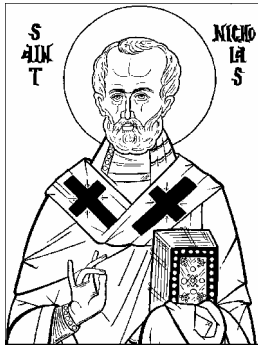
The holy Apostle was, by the world's reckoning, the nephew of our Savior, since his mother Salome was the daughter of St Joseph the Betrothed. Called 'the beloved disciple, St John was the only one of Christ's

disciples to follow Him to the Cross. The Savior entrusted the care of His most holy mother the Theotokos to John. He became like another son to her, providing for her care until the day of her repose. He preached the Gospel of Christ throughout Asia Minor, especially in Ephesus. During the persecutions of the Emperor Domitian, he was taken in bonds to Rome, where he was subjected to various tortures; but when he emerged from these miraculously unharmed, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the book of Revelation. After the death of Domitian, he returned to Ephesus and wrote his Gospel and Epistles. He is called the Theologian because of the theological expression in his New Testament writings.

**May 8** commemorates a miracle that took place at his grave every year in Ephesus. The Apostle reposed when he was more than one hundred years old; he was the only one of the Apostles not to die a martyr. Knowing that his death approached, he took seven of his disciples and told them to dig a grave in the form of a cross. He then lay

down in the grave and died, and was buried by his disciples. When the faithful later opened his grave, they found it to be empty. **However, on this date every year a fine powder, called manna by the people, poured forth from the grave, and was used by the faithful for healing of ailments of body and soul.**

† Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker,  
Archbishop of Myra (345) December 6



Our beloved Holy Father Nicholas is, along with St George (and second to the All-holy Theotokos), probably the best-loved Saint of the Church. **His miracles on behalf of the countless Christians who have called on him through**

**the ages are numberless.**

He was born in Lycia (in Asia Minor) to pious Christian parents around the end of the third century. From early youth he was inclined to solitude and silence; ... ordained a priest by his uncle, Archbishop Nicholas,

When his parents died, he gave away all of his inheritance to the needy, and thereafter almsgiving was his greatest glory. He always took particular care that his charity was in secret. Perhaps the most famous story a debt-ridden man who had no money to provide dowries for his daughters, On three successive nights the Saint threw a bag of gold into the window of the man's house, saving him and his daughters ...

**God honored his faithfulness by granting him unparalleled gifts of healing and wonderworking.** Several times, he calmed storms with his prayers and saved the ship in which he sailed. Through the centuries, he has often done the same for sailors who called out to him, and is thus considered the *patron of sailors and all who go to sea.*

His election as Bishop of Myra occurred not long before the great persecutions under Diocletian and Maximian

(c. 305). Although imprisoned, he continued to encourage his flock in the Faith. When the Arian heresy besieged the Church not long after Constantine came to the throne, St Nicholas was one of the 318 Bishops who gathered in Nicea in 325. ...

While still in the flesh, he *sometimes miraculously appeared in distant places to save the lives of the faithful.* He once saved the city of Myra from famine by appearing to the captain of a ship full of grain, telling him to take his cargo to the city. ...

The holy bishop reposed in peace around 345. His holy relics are in a church built in his honor in Myra. Pilgrims come to venerate his relics every year. In 1087, after the Saracens conquered Myra, the Saint's relics went to Bari in southern Italy, where they are venerated today. **Every year, quantities of fragrant myrrh collect from the casket containing his holy relics.**

† Holy Great-Martyr and Healer  
Panteleimon (305) July 27

Panteleimon was born in Nicomedia; his father was a pagan, his mother a Christian. She taught him the Christian Faith and St Hermolaus baptized him (July 26). He became a physician, and practiced his art with compassion and generosity, **healing many more through his**



**prayers as by his medicines.** His parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), but because of his great compassion, he was re-named Panteleimon ("all-merciful"). He once healed a man of blindness by calling on Christ, which led the once-blind man to embrace the Faith. When asked how he was healed, he named Panteleimon as his healer and proclaimed his newfound faith in Christ. For this, the pagans executed him, and then arrested Panteleimon, who after many tortures beheaded him in 305. He is counted as the **foremost of the Unmercenary Physicians.**