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## The Beginning of the Indiction or of the New Ecclesiastical Year

The *Indiction* (from the Latin word *indictio* - proclamation for tax), was a period of 15 years, in which the Roman Emperors used to impose a tax for the maintenance of the army. This is why each cycle of 15 years, starting from the reign of Augustus, is called an *Indiction*. In the West it is known the *Caesar's Indiction* (which begins on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September) and the *Pope's Indiction* (which begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January). In the East is known as *Constantinople's Indiction* (which begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September).

The Church honors this day for three reasons: First for the commemoration of the occasion when our Lord Jesus Christ entered the Synagogue and, opening the Book of Isaiah, read the passage where the Holy Prophet says about Him: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the*

*poor... to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*" (Luke 4, 18-19).

Second because this day was the first of the political and ecclesiastical year in the Byzantine Empire.

And third because Orthodox Christians must gather together in oneness of mind and praise with one voice Him who is single in His nature and threefold in His Persons, Who dwells in bliss everlasting, holds all things in being and showers blessings upon the works of His hands at all times.

### 1. Martyrs Evodus, Hermogenes and Callista (1<sup>st</sup> c.)

They were Greeks by origin and brothers. They were converted from paganism in the days of the Apostles and confessed Christ before the local Governor, who had them beheaded. The place and time of their martyrdom remains unknown.

### 5. The 40 Women Martyrs and Ammon the Deacon (+ 305)

These **40 women** were from Adrianople, Thrace. Guided by the **Deacon Ammon**, they followed Christ in the path of renunciation and virginity. During the persecution of Licinius, they were seized by Baudus, the Governor of the province, and suffered numerous tortures for refusing to sacrifice to the idols, but they all remained steadfast in unbroken prayer. 10 of them were burnt to death, 8 and the Deacon Ammon were beheaded, 10 were beaten on the mouth and breast with the flat of a sword, and of the remaining 12, 6 died by the sword and 6 through having lumps of red-hot metal thrust into their mouths.

## Synaxis of the Icon of the Holy Theotokos of Miasenes, Asia Minor



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years, until his repose, "living nearer heaven than earth". He wrought many miracles and healings, and forewarned of natural disasters. He reposed in peace, while deep in prayer, at the age of 69, having spread all around him the peace that reigned in his heart. He was buried in Antioch. His Relics were transferred to Constantinople by the Emperor Leo I (457 - 474). The place of his struggles, the Monastery of Mandra, with his pillar at the centre and four Basilicas in the form of a cross around it, remained a great place of pilgrimage, and was finally destroyed by the Arabs in 985. The ruins of this monastery, surrounding the base of the pillar, can still be seen at Qalat Seman. Today, a part of St. Symeon's leg is situated at Chilandari Monastery, Mt. Athos, and a part of his right palm at Mutsiali Monastery, Verria, Greece.

## 2. St. Symeon the Stylites (+ 461)

A Syrian by birth, he was a son of shepherds (only the name of his mother **St. Martha** has been preserved). He became a monk at a young age, but stayed in the local monastery for only two years. Then, as he wanted to lead a more ascetic life than he found there, he went to the Tebela Monastery, Antioch, and put himself under **St. Heliodoros**. He spent ten years there in ascetic labors and another three in a cell in an isolated place called Telanissos. The fame of his holiness spread so widely that a constant stream of faithful began to come for his blessing and the healing of soul and body, not only from the surrounding regions, but also from Persia, Armenia, Georgia, Italy, Greece, Gaul and Britain. So he decided to build a pillar with a little platform on its top, where he could install himself.

His first pillar was 10 feet high, the second 19, the third 36, and last 48 feet high. There he remained for 20

## 3. St. Evanthia

No information about this Saint has been preserved except that she reposed in peace.

## 4. St. Meletius the New (+ 1105)

He was born at Mutalaska (Cappadocia, Asia Minor) in about the year 1035. Together with the **Sts. Luke of Mt. Stirion** (+ 953) and **Nicon** (+ 998), he is one of the reformers of the monastic life of medieval Greece. As a child he had little ability, but when he visited a church, he received the gift of understanding the Scriptures. He became a monk at Constantinople at the age of 15, and made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Rome. After visiting Athens, he settled near Thebes, in the small Monastery of the Holy Archangels, where his virtues attracted a large number of monks (for this reason he founded 24 *Paralavria* - small dependencies). He reposed in peace. Today his grave and Head can be seen at his Monastery.

Synaxis of the "Chernigov-Gethsemane" (Russia) Icon of the Holy Theotokos