

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)  
Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535  
Website: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 \* Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

### Sunday, November 17, 2024 | 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – St Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea (ca 266-70)  
Venerable Lazarus the Iconographer, of Constantinople (ca. 857)  
Martyr Gobron (Michael) and 133 soldiers, of Georgia (914)

#### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich      Choir Director – Nina Patterson  
Reader – Mark Klus      Reader – David Pellack  
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

### Weekly Schedule

- Today: Fall General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.  
The election of half the parish officers to be held
- Wednesday: Vespersal Liturgy for the Entrance of the Most Holy  
Lady Theotokos into the Temple will be at **6:00PM!**
- Saturday: November 23 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: November 24 – Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Thursday: November 28 – Thanksgiving!  
Remember to Give Thanks for the Blessings You Have In Your Life.
- Thursday: Nov 28 – Blessed Olga Book Club – **TO BE DETERMINED!**  
With the book club scheduled on Thanksgiving and the availability of Father Mark.  
He will announce a date & time when he is able to lead in the discussions.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – Hierarch Gregory the Wonderworker)**

Thou didst become worthy of thy name\* through thy way of life; / through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy. / Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds, // that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4)**

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Hierarch Gregory the Wonderworker)**

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles, / frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking. / O All-wise Father Gregory, // thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 4)**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!  
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

### **Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)



v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)

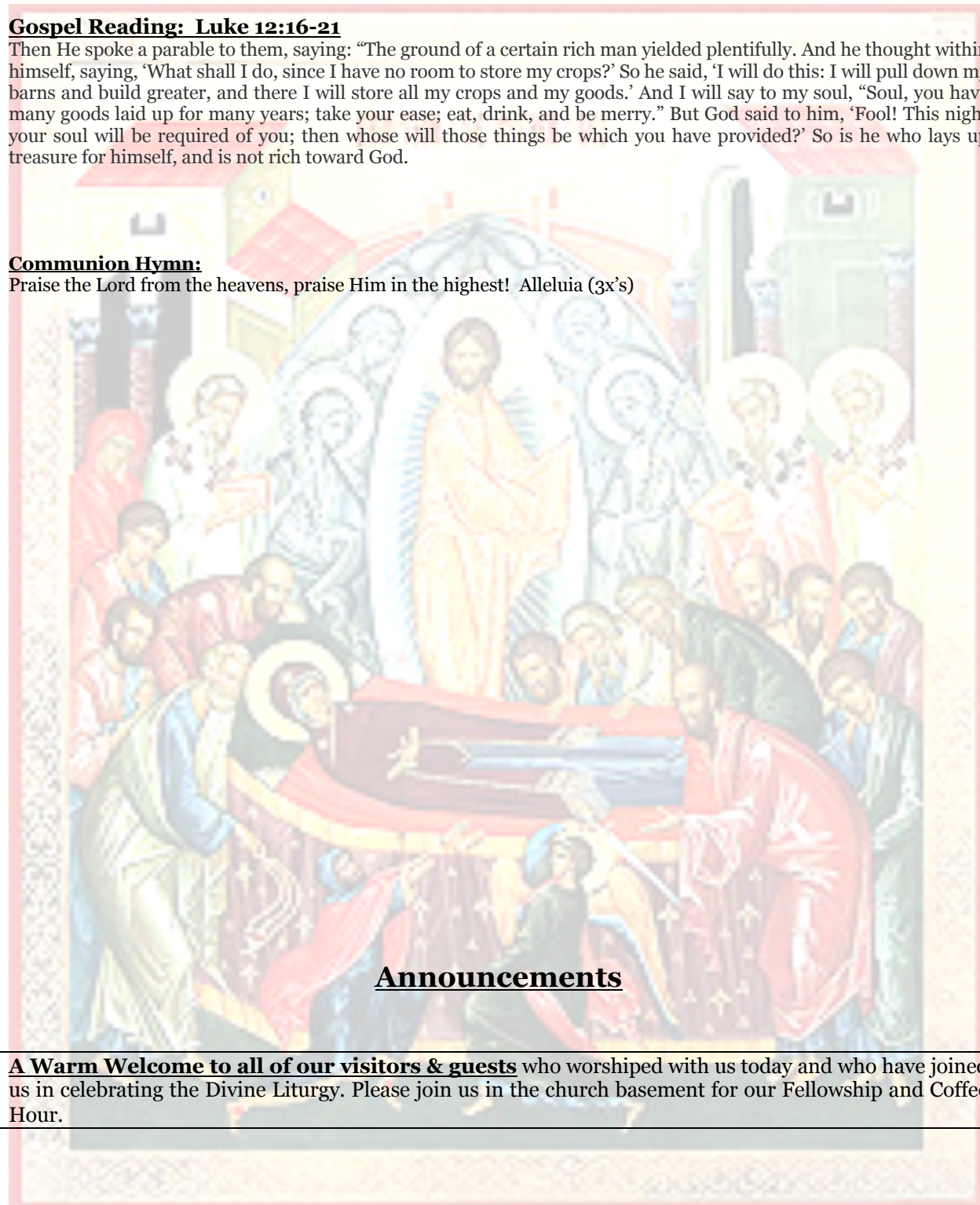
v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 12:16-21**

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests** who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

## **Announcements**

### **The Holy Synod Meets for its Regular Fall 2024 Session *Springfield, VA [OCA]***

On November 4-7, 2024, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America met for its Regular Fall 2024 Session in Springfield, VA, under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

The meeting began on Tuesday, November 5, with an opening Molieben and introductory remarks from His Beatitude, followed by an overview of the Fall Session. The Holy Synod addressed various matters, including updates from Synodal Offices and Committees, discussions on the Canonization Commission — particularly the glorification of Matushka Olga. Dates surrounding her upcoming glorification were decided upon and will be made public soon. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel made a report on the Canonical Procedures Conference recently held in Chicago.

Discussions also covered internal church matters such as the Chancery relocation process and Stavropegial institutions. Reports on External Affairs included updates on the visits to Ukraine, Romania, and Constantinople, as well as discussions regarding the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.

The second day began on Wednesday, November 6, with a Divine Liturgy at the Protection of the Holy Mother of God Church in Falls Church, VA. His Grace Bishop Andrei presided at the celebration of the Liturgy. Following the Liturgy, His Beatitude led a memorial service for the departed hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America and family members of the Holy Synod.

After brunch at Saint Mary's, Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, a member of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee, made a report and detailed his recent trip to Alaska where he, and Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, made a presentation to the Alaskan Diocesan Assembly on the topic of compliance with the Sexual Misconduct PSPs.

The Holy Synod continued with reports from Father Alexander Rentel and Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Synod then heard a presentation from Insurance Systems on a new term life insurance program which will be made available, on a voluntary basis, to all clergy and lay workers of the Orthodox Church in America—more information on this will be shared in due course. Mr. Andrew Smith, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, followed with a financial report, which included the 2025 budget and All-American Council assessments.

The afternoon sessions continued with discussions on various clergy matters, the Pension Board report presented by Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton and Ms. Melanie Ringa, the Legal Report presented by Mr. Mark Hamilton, OCA General Counsel, and the report of the Board of Theological Education presented by Archpriest Kirill Sokolov.

The final sessions on Thursday, November 7, included presentations from the Office of Pastoral Life by Archpriest Nicholas Solak, a report on the OCA Departments by Archpriest Thomas Soroka, and reports from St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries, respectively by Archpriest John Parker&Dr Alexander Tudorie.



**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Father Mark offered by Nina Patterson  
Father Mark offered by the Catherine Kavalkovich  
Family and Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Judith offered by the Reader David Pellack

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 11/10/24**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

+ The Archpriest Michael Evans (fell asleep in the Lord on November 14<sup>th</sup>)

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon (12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Nov 13<sup>th</sup>) of his election as Primate of the OCA);  
Father Mark Koczak; Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child; Darren Bodnar; Jane Kelly; Anne  
(Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Fania Wanenchak and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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## Announcements (cont.)

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

**\*\*\*\*\*Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon\*\*\*\*\***

In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.  
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

### **Cash Flow Activity (November)**

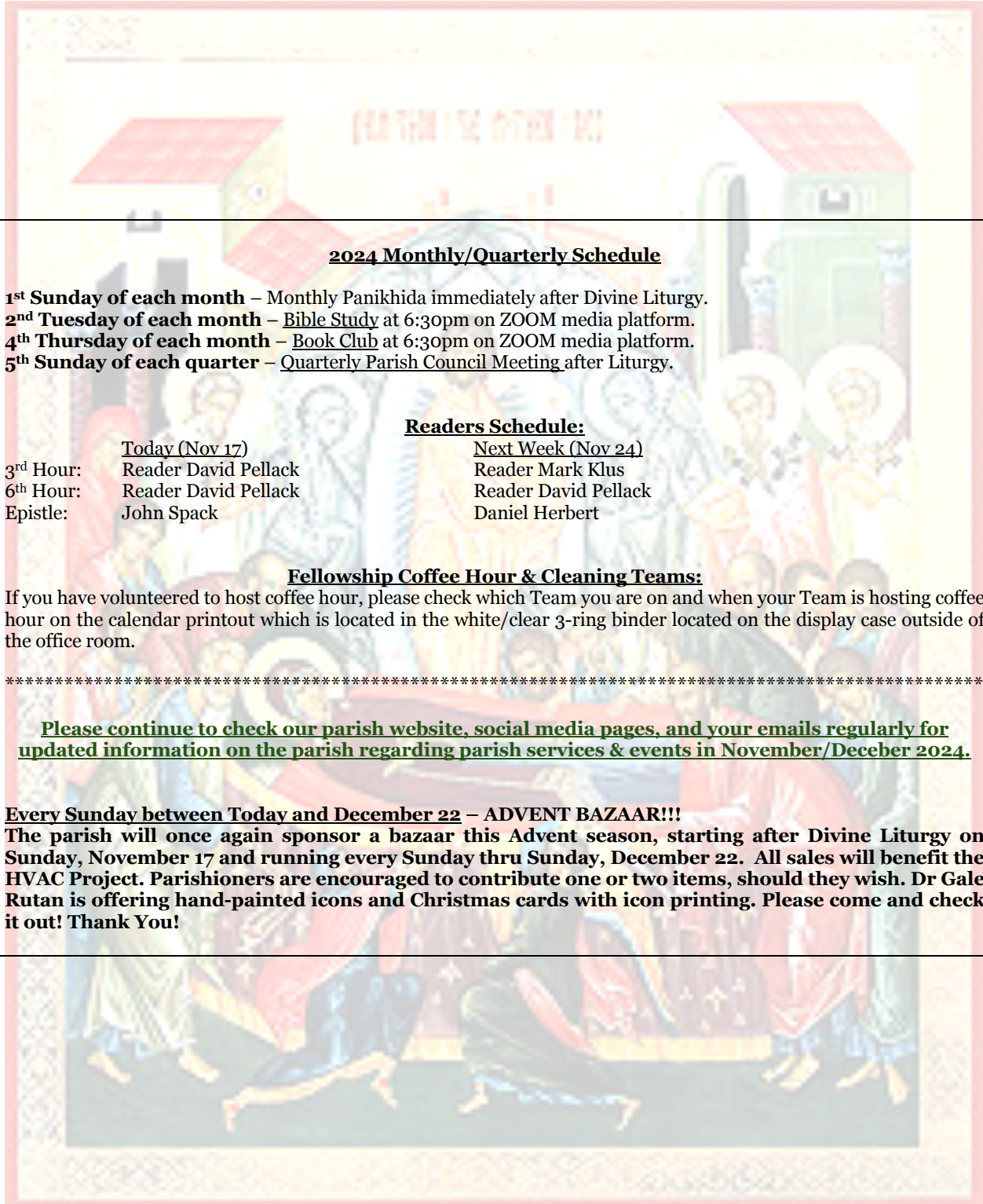
<u>Week of Sun Nov 3 to Sat Nov 9</u>	<u>November Month to date</u>
Attendance: 37	37 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,391.00	\$ 1,391.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,148.40	\$ 2,731.74
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 242.60	(\$1,340.74)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

**Shop Rite Gift Cards:** If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.



# Calendar of Events



## **2024 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

### **Readers Schedule:**

Today (Nov 17)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: Reader David Pellack  
6<sup>th</sup> Hour: Reader David Pellack  
Epistle: John Spack

Next Week (Nov 24)  
Reader Mark Klus  
Reader David Pellack  
Daniel Herbert

### **Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:**

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

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**Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in November/December 2024.**

### **Every Sunday between Today and December 22 – ADVENT BAZAAR!!!**

The parish will once again sponsor a bazaar this Advent season, starting after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 17 and running every Sunday thru Sunday, December 22. All sales will benefit the HVAC Project. Parishioners are encouraged to contribute one or two items, should they wish. Dr Gale Rutan is offering hand-painted icons and Christmas cards with icon printing. Please come and check it out! Thank You!



## **Martyr Gobron (Michael) and 133 soldiers, of Gerogia** [November 17<sup>th</sup>]

In the year 914 a certain prince by the name of Michael-Gobron distinguished himself in a battle against the Arab Muslim invaders. After they had captured the fortress of Kvelistsikhe in southern Georgia, the Muslims took captive those who remained alive, and Prince Gobron was among them. Deeply impressed by the Georgian soldier's valor, the emir Abu al-Qasim ordered his army to treat him with respect.

King Adarnerse sent Abu al-Qasim a large sum of money as a ransom for his people, and some were released. Gobron, however, was not among them. The Georgian prince recognized clearly what the future would bring, and he prepared to be martyred for Christ's sake. The Saracens escorted Gobron and 133 Georgian soldiers to their execution.

Abu al-Qasim tempted the faithful prince by offering him earthly glory and honor in exchange for his renunciation of the Christian Faith. But Saint Gobron firmly declined all of his offers. Then the furious Abu al-Qasim ordered that he be taken into the yard and shown his fallen countrymen on one side and the promised wealth on the other.

When the emir cunningly asked which one he would choose, Gobron answered, "I told you from the very start that I will not retreat from Christ my Lord!"

Then the emir devised a new, more cruel trial: "He knows not the grief of death. Lead him outside and execute every living Christian before his eyes!" he commanded.

They led the saint out in the midst of his brothers and proceeded to slaughter every one of them. The blood of the dead flew around Gobron in every direction, and the martyrs' limp bodies collapsed at his feet, but none of these horrors could break his will.

Then they compelled him to bow his head and brandished their swords above him two times. Prince Gobron traced a cross on his brow with blood and said, "I thank Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, that Thou hast accounted me, the most contemptible and chief among sinners, worthy to lay down my life for Thy sake!"

Again they brought Saint Gobron before the emir. For the last time Abu al-Qasim tried to entice him to apostatize, but the saint, dripping with blood, declared, "Do as you wish. I am a Christian and will never retreat from the name of my Christ!"

Having lost all patience, Abu al-Qasim ordered that Saint Gobron's head be chopped off and thrown in with the other mutilated bodies. Then they dug three large holes, tossed in the relics of the martyrs, refilled the holes with earth, and forbade all Christians to approach that place. At night the graves shone with a divine light visible to believers and unbelievers alike.

For laying down their lives for Christ, the valorous prince Michael-Gobron and the 133 martyrs were numbered among the saints by the Georgian Apostolic Church. The day of their commemoration was designated as November 17, the day of their martyrdom.