

ST CYRIL THE SIXTH COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH - 100 BERNARD RD. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32218

ST. CYRIL VI MONTHLY BULLETIN

NEWS

*St Cyril VI Community wishes our October birthdays a joyous month

CHURCH'S SEASON:

- +COMMEMORATION OF ST MARY, OUR BELOVED MOTHER 10/1
- + ANNUNCIATION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST TO ZACHARIAS 10/6
- +MARTYRDOM OF ST ANASTASIA 10/11
- +COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL 10/22
- +DEPARTURE OF ST ABBA JOHN THE SHORT 10/30

DONATIONS

Via Zeffy, please go to the link below:

<https://t.ly/RKJRo>

"For God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

"For if you saved the beasts and animals in the ark, how much more will you care for your images that glorify you? While if you cared for the reptiles and birds, how much more will you care for us, whom you have called the temple of your will?" - Prayer of St. Arbsima

SERVICE TIMES

Vesper Prayers:

Friday, 10/9 & 10/23 - 6:00pm

Divine Liturgy:

**Saturday, 10/10 &
10/24 - 8:30am**

MARTYRDOM OF ST ARBSIMA THE VIRGIN 10/9 (TUTE 29)

The Beautiful story of St Arbsima and her sisters

- St Arbisma suffered martyrdom in the year 292, during the reign of Diocletian (284-304). She was very beautiful in terms of her outward appearance, and modest in her character.
- In those days, Diocletian sent painters throughout the Empire to paint a picture of the most beautiful damsel that their sights fell on and to give him an accurate description of her. Once they found the most beautiful damsel, he would bring her to his castel and marry her.

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- When they arrived nearby Rome, they entered a monastery for the virgins and they found Saint Arbsima and thought that there was none like her in beauty. However, St Arbsima had consecrated her virginity to Christ, and was living in a community of women in Asia Minor.
- This did not stop them from painting a portrait of her and sent it to the Emperor who rejoiced at it and he sent her a letter, asking her to be his wife. In the meantime he then sent to the kings and governors to invite them to the wedding celebrations.
- St Arbsima, who had Christ as her heavenly Bridegroom, did not want to marry anyone else. Therefore, the nuns decided to take refuge in Armenia. On the way, they endured hunger, thirst, and many other trials.
- They settled in a vineyard on the slopes of Mount Ararat, and the stronger women would go into the city to work for people in order to earn money to purchase food and other necessities. All the women were willing to endure exile, and to bear every burden and sorrow for the sake of purity.
- When Diocletian sought for Arbsima, he did not find her. Later he heard that she was in the country of Armenia so he sent to Tridatah the governor to inform him about her and to keep her.
- When the virgins heard that, they left their shelter and hid themselves in the city. But some men told about them. Tridatah then commanded to bring Arbsima to him and when she did not wish to go, they abducted her and brought her to him. When he saw her beauty, he wanted to have her for himself, but she did not let him. He brought her mother to persuade her but instead she besought her to endure patiently, she comforted her, told her that she must not forsake her true Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that she must not defile her virginity.
- When he knew what her mother had done, he commanded to break her teeth, but God gave St.Arbsima power to overcome the governor; she pushed him forcefully and he fell on his back. She went away and left him lying on the floor although he was well known in war for his strength and bravery. He was ashamed of having been vanquished by a virgin damsel and ordered his men to cut off her head.
- The soldiers came and tied her, tore out her tongue, plucked out her eyes, and then cut her into pieces. He ordered to slay the rest of the virgins. The soldiers bored in the soles of their feet, flayed them, cut them in pieces, and then cast them out. One of them was sick and was lying on a bed, and she cried out to the soldiers to make her join her sisters. So, they cut off her head also and thus, all the virgins received crowns of martyrdom. The soldiers also slew all who had come with them from Rome.
- After their departure, the governor became mad and doctors could not help him until Saint Gregory, Bishop of Armenia, came to him and prayed over him. By this he was healed of his affliction and believed in the Lord Christ. And he took the bodies of the holy and pure virgins and laid them in a holy place.

May their prayers be with us. Amen.

