

## Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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### Schedule for the Week of June 28 – July 4, 2009

Sunday Jun 28	St. Jonah of Moscow & All Russia Свят. Ионы, Мит. Московскаго и Всея России
Saturday Jul 4	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Jul 5	St. Eusebius of Samosata 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

#### Духовная брань

Нечистые духи внушают нам ложные мысли и злые желания, стараясь отвлекать наш ум и сердце от предметов святых. Будем же всячески противиться им, не давая укореняться в себе худым помыслам и желаниям. Бесы очень злы, и сама жизнь их в том и состоит, чтобы делать зло. Мы, напротив, братья, как избранные Божии облечемся во утробы щедрот, благодать, смиренномудрие, кротость и долготерпение (Колос.3.12), и да разумеваем друг друга в поощрении любви и добрых дел (Евр.10,24), всегда памятуя, что зло получит должное себе воздаяние на Страшном Суде Христовом, равно как и всякое добро не останется без должного вознаграждения от Бога и Отца... «Иже избави нас от власти темные, и пристави в Царство Суына любве Своея» (Кол.1,12). *(Свт Иоанн Кронциатдтский)*.

#### St Jonah the Metropolitan of Moscow

Saint Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia, was born in the city of Galich into a pious Christian family. The youth received monastic tonsure in one of the Galich monasteries when he was only twelve years old. From there, he transferred to the Moscow Simonov monastery, where he fulfilled various obediences for many years.

Once, St Photius, Metropolitan of Moscow (May 27 and July 2), visited the Simonov monastery. After the Molieben, he blessed the archimandrite and brethren, and also wished to bless those monks who were fulfilling their obediences in the monastery.

When he came to the bakery, he saw St Jonah sleeping, exhausted from his work. The fingers of the saint's right hand were positioned in a gesture of blessing. St Photius

said not to wake him. He blessed the sleeping monk and predicted to those present that this monk would be a great hierarch of the Russian Church, and would guide many on the way to salvation.

The prediction of St Photius was fulfilled. Several years later, St Jonah was made Bishop of Ryazan and Murom. St Photius died in 1431. Five years after his death, St Jonah was chosen Metropolitan of All Russia for his virtuous and holy life. The newly-elected Metropolitan journeyed to Constantinople in order to be confirmed as Metropolitan by Patriarch Joseph II (1416-1439). Shortly before this the nefarious Isidore had already been established as Metropolitan. Spending a short time at Kiev and Moscow, Isidore journeyed to the Council of Florence (1438), where he embraced Catholicism.

A Council of Russian hierarchs and clergy deposed Metropolitan Isidore, and he was compelled to flee secretly to Rome (where he died in 1462). St Jonah was unanimously chosen Metropolitan of All Russia. He was consecrated by Russian hierarchs in Moscow, with the blessing of Patriarch Gregory III (1445-1450) of Constantinople. This was the first time that Russian bishops consecrated their own Metropolitan. St Jonah became Metropolitan on December 15, 1448. With archpastoral zeal he led his flock to virtue and piety, spreading the Orthodox Faith by word and by deed. Despite his lofty position, he continued with his monastic struggles as before.

In 1451 the Tatars unexpectedly advanced on Moscow; they burned the surrounding area and prepared for an assault on the city. Metropolitan Jonah led a procession along the walls of the city, tearfully entreating God to save the city and the people. Confusion broke out among the Tatars, and they fled in fear and terror. In his courtyard, St Jonah built a church in honor of the Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos, to commemorate the deliverance of Moscow from the enemy.

St Jonah reposed in the year 1461, and miraculous healings began to take place at his grave.

In 1472 the incorrupt relics of Metropolitan Jonah were uncovered and placed in the Dormition Cathedral of the Kremlin (the Transfer of the holy Relics is celebrated May 27). A Council of the Russian Church in 1547 established the commemoration of St Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow. In 1596, Patriarch Job added St Jonah to the Synaxis of the Moscow Hierarchs (October 5). *(excerpted from the Synaxarion)*