



**The Holy Great Martyr Catherine  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on November 25.**

Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constatas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was originally dedicated to the Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Catherine.

According to ancient usage, Saints Catherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The dates of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Catherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos. The Slavic Churches, however, commemorate these Saints on their original dates.

Saint Mercurius came from Cappadocia, was the son of Gordian, a Sycthian. A young man, and a soldier of high rank, he refused to sacrifice to the idols, and after torments was beheaded during the reign of Valerian (252-260).

Rest from labour. Oil and wine allowed.

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Icon of Saint Catherine courtesy The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

*Dismissal Hymn of the Feast. Fourth Tone*

**T**ODAY is the prelude of God's good will and the heralding of the salvation of mankind. In the temple of God, the virgin is presented openly, and she proclaimeth Christ unto all. To her, then, with a great voice let us cry aloud: Rejoice, O thou fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

*Dismissal Hymn of Saint Catherine  
Plagal of First Tone. Let us worship the Word*

**L**ET us praise the all-lauded and noble bride of Christ, \* the godly Catherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, \* who is also our support and succor and our help; \* for with the Holy Spirit's sword \* she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; \* and being crowned as a martyr, she doth now ask great mercy for us all.

*Dismissal Hymn of Saint Mercurius. Fourth Tone  
Be quick to Anticipate*

**T**HY Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For since he cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption.\* O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

*Kontakion of the Feast. Fourth Tone  
Thou Who wast raised up*

**T**HE sacred treasury of God's holy glory, \* the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, \* the Saviour's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, \* into the house of the Lord \* on this day is brought forward \* and bringeth with

Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry Into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos. The Holy Great Martyr Catherine.  
The Holy Great Martyr Mercurius.

herself the grace \* of the Most Divine Spirit; \* her do God's Angels hymn with  
songs of praise, \* for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

*Kontakion of Saint Catherine. Second Tone*  
*Thou soughtest the heights*

**R**OUSE up now a choir, \* O ye that love the martyred Saints, \* august and  
inspired, \* acclaiming the supremely wise \* Martyr Catherine, who hath  
proclaimed and preached of Christ in the stadium \* and hath trampled the  
serpent down \* and spat on the knowledge of the eloquent.

*Kontakion of Saint Mercurius. Same Melody*

**O** WISE one, thou wast \* initiated solemnly in matters divine, \* O all-  
renowned Mercurius, \* and becamest an acceptable sacrifice when eagerly  
thou didst drink the cup of Christ God; \* and now thou dost ceaselessly pray for  
us all.



Left to Right: Saint Catherine's Monastery – Mount Sinai- Mount Saint Catherine