



**Our Righteous Mother Irene, Abbess of the Convent of Chrysovalantou,
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on July 28.**

Saint Irene, who was from Cappadocia, flourished in the ninth century. Because of her great beauty and virtue, she was brought to Constantinople as a prospective bride for the young Emperor Michael (842-867); however, as Saint Joannicius the Great foretold, it was God's will that she assume the monastic habit instead. She shone forth in great ascetical labours and suffered many attacks from the demons; while yet a novice, she attained to the practice of Saint Arsenius the Great, of praying the whole night long with arms stretched out towards Heaven (see May 8). God showed forth great signs and wonders in her, and she became the Abbess of the Convent of Chrysovalantou. She was granted the gift of clairvoyance and knew the thoughts of all who came to her. She appeared in a vision to the king and rebuked him for unjustly imprisoning a nobleman who had been falsely accused. Through a sailor from Patmos to whom he had appeared, Saint John the evangelist sent her fragrant and wondrous apples from Paradise. She reposed at the age of 103, still retaining the youthful beauty of her countenance. After her repose, marvellous healings beyond number have been wrought by her to the present day.

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*Dismissal Hymn of the Righteous One
Plagal of First Tone. Let us worship the Word*

NOT a temporal kingdom on earth didst thou obtain, * but Christ, thy most comely Bridegroom, vouchsafed thee heavenly crowns, * and thou reignest as a queen with Him eternally; * for thou didst dedicate thyself unto Him with all thy soul, O Irene, our righteous Mother, * thou boast of Chrysovalantou, and mighty help of all the Orthodox.

*Kontakion of the Righteous One
Third Tone. On this day the Virgin*

LEAVING all the world behind * with its impermanent glory, * thou wast wedded unto Christ, * the King immortal and holy, * bringing Him as a precious dowry * thy maiden beauty * and thy trophies won through abstinence over demons. * O Irene, our righteous Mother, * entreat thy Bridegroom, * to show His mercy to us.



† THEOTOKOS OF THE ΣΙΩΝ