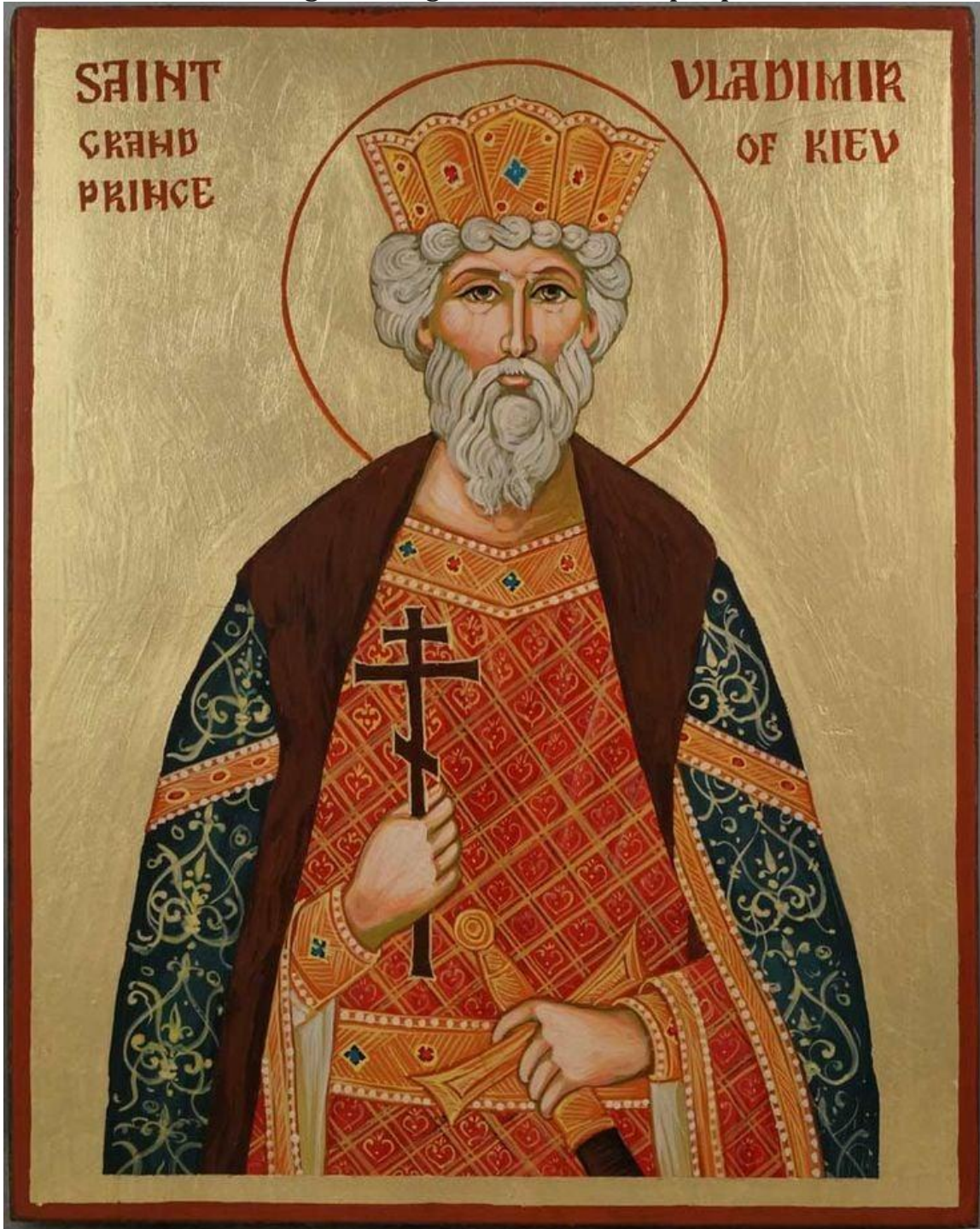


Saint Vladimir I of Kiev, Grand Prince (956 - 1015 AD)
honored Christian King & Evangelist to the Slavic peoples



<http://catholic.net/op/articles/2634/vladimir-i-of-kiev.html>

This is a brief account of how GOD took a hardened sinner, who choosing to cooperate with Heaven's Saving Grace, became a great Saint and the human agent through whom The Lord Christianized all of Russia!

"Around the year 957, Olga, the widow of Prince Igor of Kievan Rus (modern-day Belarus, Ukraine and part of Russia) received Baptism in Constantinople while visiting the Christian Byzantine emperor. The Faith took root in Olga, and she returned to her land, eager to share it.

But her own son Svyatoslav took little notice, and his three sons less so. After Svyatoslav's death, the sons proceeded to wage bloody warfare upon each other, with the third son, Vladimir, the sole survivor, becoming king of all Russia. He took five wives, and would father twelve children all together.

In 987, Vladimir accepted Baptism so that he could marry Anne, the sister of the Byzantine emperor. Vladimir entered The Church with the same sincerity his grandmother had. He put aside his five other wives and began to give generously to the poor. He tore down the pagan temples and smashed the idols, making way for Christian Churches and schools.

Vladimir also led many into The new Faith, so impressed were they by his zeal. In the east, Olga and Vladimir are honored as "Equals to the Apostles" for their role in the evangelization of the Slavic peoples. The sons Vladimir had by his Christian wife (Anne), Boris and Gleb, died as Martyrs and are revered as Saints. Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Vladimir of Kiev, increase my zeal." * Amen!

PSALM 85:1-13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLp85eLlAlM>

Lord JESUS CHRIST, Thou hast redeemed Thy Church!

1 LORD, Thou hast been favourable unto Thy land: Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of Thy people, Thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

3 Thou hast taken away all Thy wrath: Thou hast turned Thyself from the fierceness of Thine anger. Lord JESUS CHRIST, Thou hast redeemed Thy Church!

4 Turn us, O GOD of our salvation, and cause Thine anger toward us to cease.

5 Wilt Thou be angry with us for ever? wilt Thou draw out Thine anger to all generations?

6 Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?

Lord JESUS CHRIST, Thou hast redeemed Thy Church!

7 Shew us Thy Mercy, O LORD, and grant us Thy salvation.

8 I will hear what GOD The LORD will speak: for He will speak Peace unto His people, and to His saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

9 Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him; that Glory may dwell in our land. Lord JESUS CHRIST, Thou hast redeemed Thy Church!

10 Mercy and Truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from Heaven.

12 Yea, The LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before Him; and shall set us in The Way of His steps.

*["Saint Vladimir of Kiev, Layman." The Magnificat, 8/18/2021. Saints Who Were Leaders, p 277.]