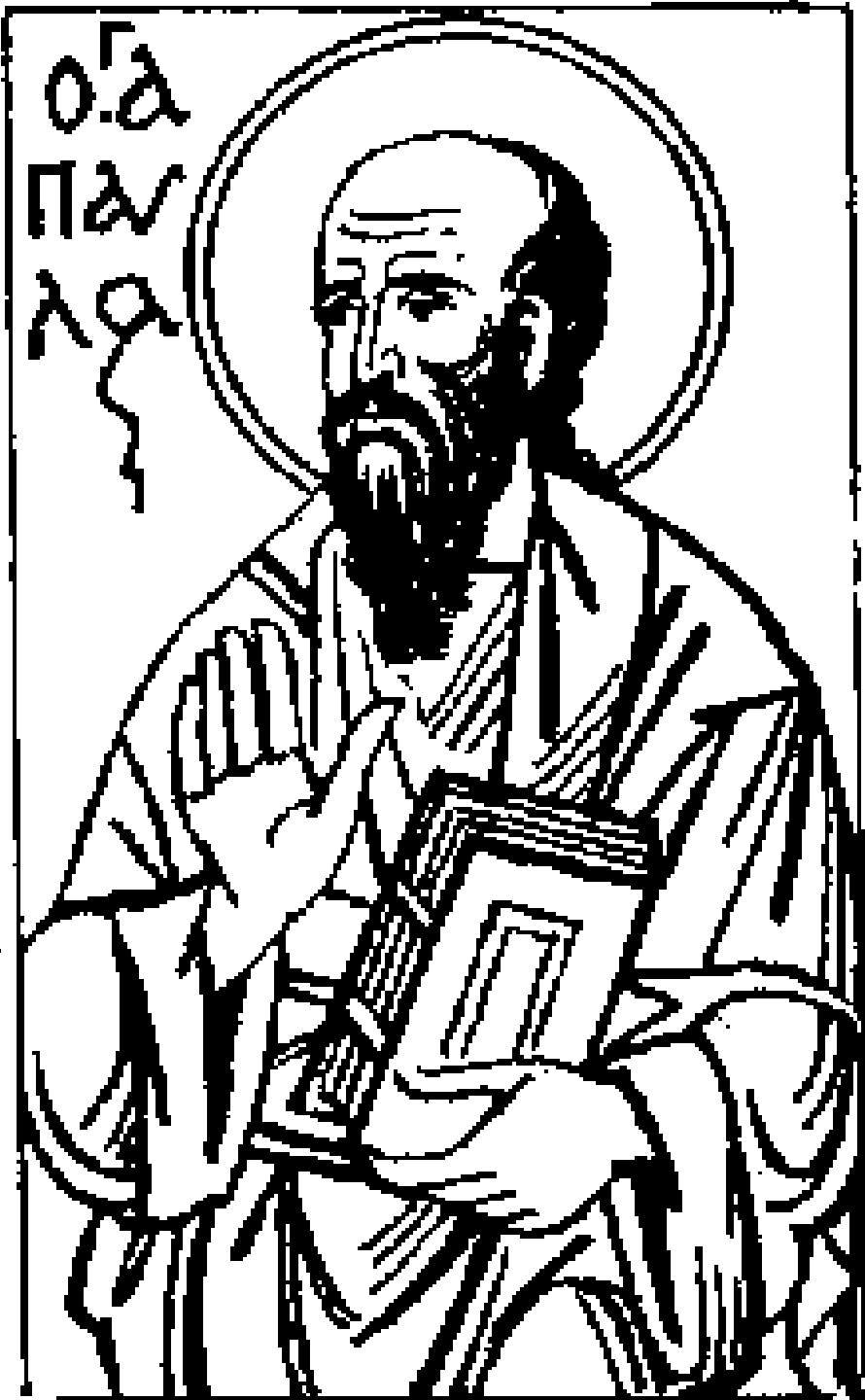


Saint Paul the Apostle

Parish Feast Day: October 29

(June 29, universal observance)



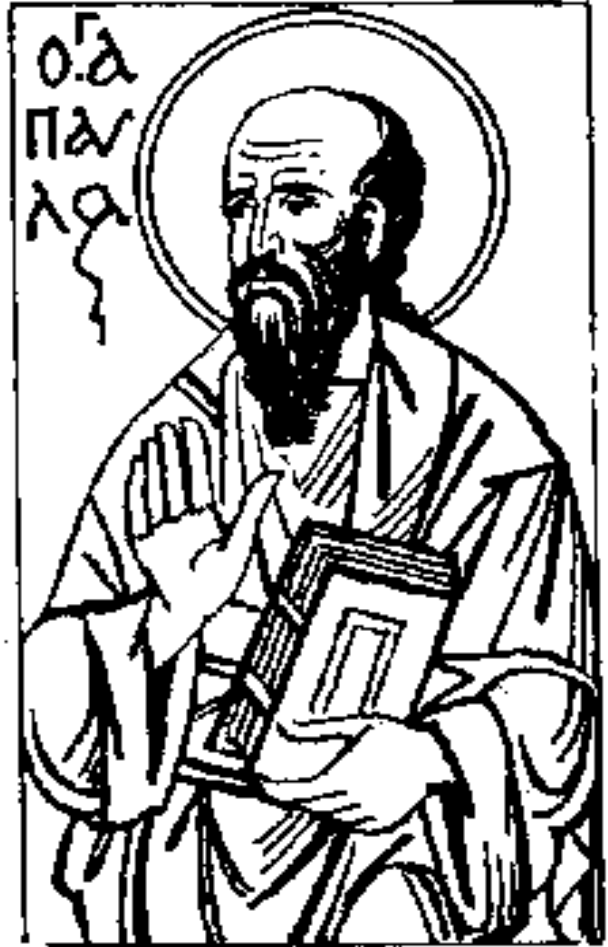
Saint Paul wrote many great letters about Jesus Christ and His Church. These letters, called Epistles became part of the New Testament in the Holy Bible. Saint Paul also went to Greece to tell people about Jesus Christ. He was put in jail many times just because he talked and wrote about Jesus Christ. He is called Apostle to the Nations because he helped so many people all over the world learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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Saint Paul was a Pharisee of the tribe of Benjamin. He was born "Saul" in Tarsus of Asia Minor and had persecuted the Church with great zeal and violence. He was responsible for the stoning of the first martyr of the church, Saint Stephen. On his way to Damascus, Saint Paul had a dramatic conversion experience during which he suddenly fell to the ground as if struck by lightning. He was blinded although he could still hear. He heard the Lord in a voice like a human voice ask him the question: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He was given back his vision in Damascus by Ananias, as



instructed by the Lord, was baptized by Ananias and went on to become one of the greatest exponents of Christ teachings, as found in his letters or epistles. He went on three missionary journeys in Europe and Asia Minor, was jailed and tortured many times throughout his life, and he wrote the following epistles of The New Testament: 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, 1st and 2nd Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and he probably wrote Hebrews. Saint Paul was beheaded by Emperor Nero in the year 67.



The Hymn of Saint Paul

Facing dangers and sea, and fearful persecution, you became a chosen vessel of the Savior. With your sermons you enlightened the nations, and to the Athenians you revealed the Unknown God. Teacher of the nations Saint Paul the apostle, protector of us all, keep us who honor you, safe from every trial and danger.