



ST. MOSES THE BLACK
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΜΩΥΣΗΣ Ο ΑΙΘΙΟΠΑΣ

AUGUST 28

NAME _____ GRADE _____

Moses the Black
(Moses the Ethiopian)
(c. 330-405)

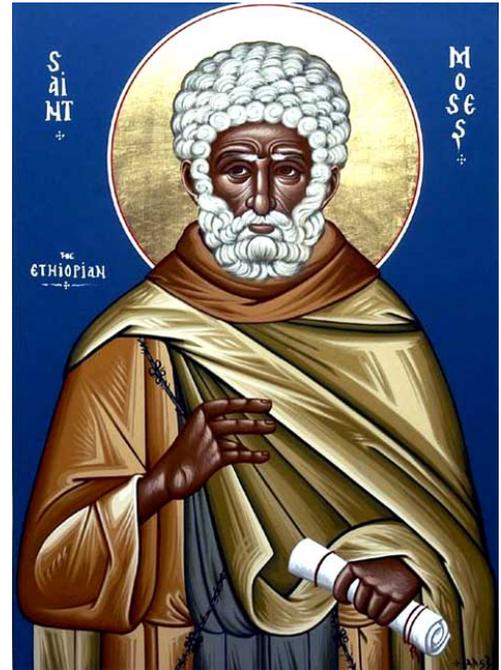
August 28

Patronage:

Venerated in:

Eastern Orthodox Church
Oriental Orthodox Church
Roman Catholic Church
Eastern Catholic Church
Anglican Communion Church
Lutheran Church

Relics:



Moses was an Ethiopian and lived in Egypt during the fourth century. In his youth he was a slave, but after he committed a murder, his master banished him, and he joined a group of robbers. He was chosen leader of this group because of his bad character and great physical strength. The group was feared by all because they murdered and robbed.

After several years of leading a sinful life, Moses repented, left the group and went to one of the desert monasteries. He begged and cried to be admitted to the monastery, but the monks were not convinced of the sincerity of his repentance. Moses continually asked that they accept him, and they finally welcomed him into the monastery. Moses was completely obedient to the igumen and fellow monks and was constantly sorrowful for his sinful life.

During one incident, the Fathers of the Scete (monastery) asked Moses to go to an assembly to judge the fault of a certain brother, but he refused. When they insisted, he took a basket, which had a hole in it, filled it with sand, and carried it on his shoulders. When the Fathers saw him, they asked what it meant. Moses answered, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and I am come this day to judge failings which are not mine."

After a while, he withdrew to a solitary cell, and spent his time in prayer and strict fast. Once, four robbers from his former group went to Moses's cell. He tied them all up, threw them over his shoulder and brought them to the monastery, where he asked the Elders what to do with them. The Elders ordered that they be set free. The robbers, finding out that Moses was their former leader, and that he had dealt kindly with them, followed his example. They all repented and became monks. When the rest of the group of robbers heard about Moses's repentance, they also gave up their sinful life and became monks.

After many years of strict monastic living, Moses was ordained a deacon and then a priest, feeling unworthy of the honor. He remained in this rank for 15 years and gathered himself 75 disciples.

When Moses reached about 75 years old, he forewarned his monks that soon the Scete would be attacked and everyone would be murdered. He blessed his monks to leave to save themselves from death. The monks begged him to leave with them, but Moses refused, believing that he should die for his sinful life. Instead, the monks remained with him. The attack did happen and the robbers killed Moses and the six monks that were with him.

<http://oca.org/saints/lives/2015/08/28/102414-venerable-moses-the-black-of-scete>
http://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints_view?contentid=181&type=saints

icon - http://www.christopherklitou.com/icon_28_aug_moses_the_ethiopian.htm