



# Main Church *Iconography*

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

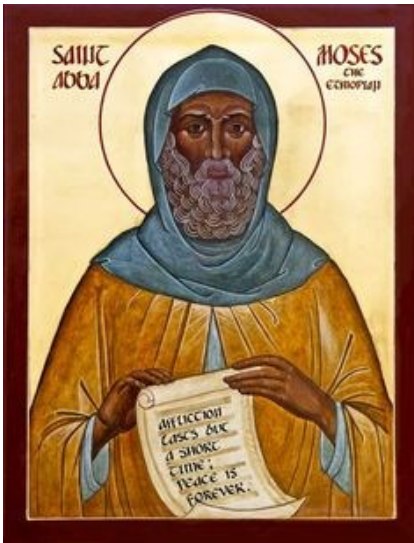
TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

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## ***Saint Moses the Black***

*August 28*



The power of repentance transformed this infidel slave, St. Moses the Black, who was a murderer, adulterer and robber, into a great 4th century Desert Father. He became a teacher, comforter, and a priest who wrote rules for the monks, and, eventually, a martyr. St. Moses was a slave to sun worshippers, and a mighty man who loved to eat and drink excessively. He killed, robbed and committed all evil. On many occasions, he lifted up his eyes to look to the sun, saying, "O Sun!! if you are God, let me know it." One day, he heard someone saying to him, "The monks of Wadi El-Natroun know the real God. Go to them and they will tell you." Instantly, he rose up, girded his sword and went to the wilderness of Shehet (Skete). He met St. Esidorous (Isidore) the priest, who was frightened because of his appearance. St. Moses comforted him by saying that he came

to the monks so that they might let him know the real God. St. Esidorous took him to St. Macarius the Great, who taught him the faith, baptized him, and accepted St. Moses as a monk. The devil fought him intensively with his old habits, but St. Esidorous taught him how to overcome the snares of the devil. After many years of spiritual struggle, the devil made him sick and bedridden. But St. Moses increased his asceticism and worship, until God healed his illness. He became the father and the spiritual guide of 500 brothers and was ordained a priest. One day, the Berbers attacked the monastery and killed him, along with seven other brothers.

*Apolytikion: Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh, and a wonder-worker, O Moses, our God-bearing Father. By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of them that have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him that hath given thee strength. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.*