

[*Holy Women, Holy Men*](#) is a major revision of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, the official worship book which includes biographies of saints who are commemorated in the calendar of [The Episcopal Church](#), along with the collects (prayers) and scripture readings appointed for worship on these feasts. Over 100 new commemorations were approved at the 2009 General Convention. Nine years in the making, the new volume offers a fuller representation of the diversity of the Episcopal Church as well as a broader ecumenical and international mix of commemorations. While a significant number are from the most recent centuries, the additions include saints from every period of church history.

In addition, the convention added a third reading for each commemoration already on the calendar, so that each feast now has an Old Testament reading, a non-Gospel reading from the New Testament, and a Gospel reading.

The 2009 General Convention called for [trial use](#) of these commemorations, giving opportunity to pray with this new material before a final decision about whether to add each commemoration to the [calendar](#) of [The Book of Common Prayer](#). We invite you to join us in this prayer each day, whether by worshiping with a congregation or by including the commemoration in your personal devotion. Then tell us about your experience. How did this person's life witness to the Gospel? How does this person inspire us in Christian life today? How well does the collect gather the prayers of the assembly and pray about the significance of the person? How well do these lessons speak to the life of this saint?

[Click here to view both current and recent commemorations and to provide feedback.](#)