

January 8

E. Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite



St. George was born on the island of Cyprus. After the death of his parents, still a youth, he, "having a divine desire to travel", went to Palestine to venerate the holy places. Here he arrived at the monastic Chozebite community which is found between the Jordan River and Jerusalem. In this community he subsequently became the rector. "Having kept the fast as food was for the pleasure of eating", and "exhausted by hiding his need to lie down, and by friendly tears and standing in all-night vigil", he was a paradigm of the "greatest" for the monks. Having lived on earth, "as if bodiless", he died in peace in the 7th Century.

Kontakion, tone 4

**You were revealed as the brightest star, George,
Enlightening with divine rays those who faithfully call to you:
Pray for us to the Master Christ
Who has revealed Himself in streams,
And who enlightens those born on earth.**

Our Venerable Mother Domnica

Having arrived in Constantinople from Carthage during the reign of Theodosius the Great, Domnica accepted holy baptism from Patriarch Nectarius and then entered a monastery. Here she, "turned from the glory of the flesh, both carnal passions, and any kind of life of pleasure", "like a sail: full blown of abstinence", firm and long ascetic acts she ascended to a marvelous degree of spiritual perfection. She healed the sick, revealed power over the elements, foretold the future, by which she turned to the cares of eternity even for the carefree inhabitants of the capital. "Adorned with good deeds and preceded by beautiful wonders she flowed up to the chamber of Christ the King" "like an undefiled virgin", died in peace in extreme old age, in the year 474.

Ven. Emilian the Confessor. The Ven. Emilian endured exile by the iconoclasts in 9th Century. (See Aug. 8).

Ven. Gregory of the Caves

The Ven. Gregory was tonsured in 1064 by the Ven. Theodosius. Almost every night he spent without sleep, in singing and in prayer and was distinguished by his love for reading devout books. By the order of Rostislav Vsevolodovich,

Prince of Pereiaslav, he was drowned with a stone around his neck in the Dnieper River in 1094 because he predicted that the prince would be defeated by the Polovtsians and that he would be drowned. For 3 days after his death his body appeared as a wonderful image in his closed cell. The relics of the Ven. Gregory repose in St. Anthony Caves in Kiev.

Ven. Elias, the Egyptian Desert Dweller

In his youth having entered into monasticism, he practiced asceticism for 75 years in a stony cave on a deserted mountain, and lived to be 110 years old, in the 4th Century.

Martyrs Julian, Basilissa and others with them: Celsius, Anthony, Anastasius, Marionilla, 7 youth and 20 warriors

St. Julian was born on the Egyptian Mountain Antinoe, and, according to the will of his parents, at the age of 18 years he was married to the noble and rich maiden Basilissa. In the marriage the spouses remained virgins. After the death of their parents, they built two monasteries: men's and women's, and accepted monasticism. St. Julian was the rector of the men's monastery, and Basilissa abbess of the women's monastery. During the reign of Diocletian in 313, St. Julian suffered severely for his faith in Christ and enduring his travails with courage converted to Christ the son Celsius of his torturer (the Hegumen Marcian), and raised from the dead his wife Marionilla together with a pagan named in baptism Anastasius who accepted holy baptism from the Presbyter Anthony. After imprisonment and many tortures, all received the crown of martyrdom, being beheaded with the sword.

The Hieromartyr Carterius

A presbyter in Caesarea, Cappadocia, during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian and Urban his deputy for Caesarea, he suffered severely for his confession of faith in and preaching about Jesus Christ. After heavy torture he died from the spear of the guilt of the Jews in the year 304.

Martyrs Deacon Theophilus and Layman Helladius

Both of them spread the faith in Christ, reviled idols and accused their worshippers in Libya and for this they were seized and given over to various tortures. After being tortured they were stoned to death in the 3rd century in Libya.

St. Cyrus, Patriarch of Constantinople, died in 714. His memory is kept in the countryside Chorus Monastery.

St. Attica, Patriarch of Constantinople, occupied the throne for about 20 years and died in peace on October 10, 425.

Ven. Agatho practiced asceticism in Egypt in the 4th Century and died in peace.

Travail of St. Isidore and 72 others in Derpt (Yuriev).

A priest of the church of St. Nicholas in Yuriev (Dorpat, Derpt, Tartu), a zealous trainer of his flock on the way to salvation and an unabashed man of prayer, like a star shining among Christians with virtues, St. Isidore suffered in the year 1472. A zealous advocate of Orthodoxy, he quite often reproached the Germans, inspiring them to abandon their Latin faith and become Orthodox. They informed the bishop and the German city authorities about his activity. On the feast of Theophany during the sanctification of water on the Emajogi River, the strict Germans sent by the Lithuanian bishop and elders, seized Isidore, and those men and women with him and hailed them before the city judges. Great was the torture in court for the good warriors of Christ in order to force them to renounce their faith and unite with the Latins. But Isidore and all the Orthodox confessors with him remained unshakable and were imprisoned. In prison St. Isidore communed himself with the reserved gifts of the Holy and life-creating Mysteries, and communed all the men, their wives and children who were with him. All were filled with spiritual joy, and the reverent presbyter taught them from the divine scriptures about the giving of eternal blessings for good deeds and eternal torment for sordid deeds. The torturers took the sufferers from prison and set them in court before the bishop and all the Latins who gathered for the disgraceful show. They again tried to bend them to the Latin faith; but the courageous confessors remained unbowed as before. Then the strict bishop, together with his jury, burning with rage against the saints, ordered all these well-pleasing to God martyrs, in the clothes they were wearing, to be cast into the Emajogi River. And St. Isidore, vested in his full presbyter robes was thrown into that same place in the river where he blessed the water on the day of Theophany. There were 72 sufferers in all including their teacher their Isidore, who all placed their pure souls into the hands of the living God and were crowned with incorruptible crowns. In spring, the bodies of all the confessors of Christ appeared three fields beyond Yuriev, up the river under a tree by the hill, undamaged as if the people reposed there. Then the Orthodox merchants of the city of Yuriev took the relics of the sufferers and buried them in honor in the same city, near the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.

St. Gregory, Bishop of Moesia. After judicial duty he was vested as the Bishop of Pelagonia and Prilep and died in peace in the year 1012.

Martyr Abo. Born in Arabia, he was beheaded and burned by the Mohammedans for converting to Christ and for confessing his faith in Tiflis on January 8, 790.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp21-22.
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