

# January 9

## *D. Holy Martyr Polyeuctus*

St. Polyeuctus was a warrior during the reign of Decius and suffered during the reign of Valerian in Melitene, Armenia in the year 259. Converted to Christ by his friend Nearchos, with Christian zealously he destroyed idols and stamped his faith with blood, having been beheaded. His relics were in Constantinople in the Temple of the Apostles in 14th and 15th centuries, according to the witness of Russian pilgrims Stephen and Zosimas.

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**When the Savior bowed His head in the Jordan,  
The heads of the serpents were crushed:  
When Polyeuctus was beheaded,  
The flatterers were shamed.**

### *✠ Our Father among the Saints Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia, New Confessor*

The hierarch-martyr, in the world Theodore, descended from the old famous boyar family of Kolichev. He was born in Moscow in 1507, well educated and entered imperial service. At 30 years of age he decided to leave the vain world and to devote himself to the service of God. Not having shared his intention with anybody and not having taken anything with him, in peasant clothes, he went to the distant Solovki Monastery. Here he was welcomed by the Hegumen, the Elder Alexei, and was made a postulant, and like a lamb led to slaughter he fervently carried out the labor assigned to him. He carried water, cut fire wood, worked on a mill and in the monastery smithy, cultivated a kitchen garden and baked bread. Within a year and a half the Hegumen tonsured him, naming him Phillip. In the calling of monk, St. Philip was an example of all the virtues, not weakening in labor and prayer. After the death of Hegumen Alexei, he received authority over the Solovki Monastery and very much labored for the improvement and adornment of the poor monastery. He wrote a Typicon (Ustav) for the brethren, constructed two temples, constructed a Scete and a hospital for the monks, drained bogs, and built roads. He was called to Moscow by Tsar Ivan the Terrible on June 25, 1566 and was installed as the Metropolitan of Moscow. In this rank St. Philip "gleamed like a splendid star by his words of teaching". He fearlessly spoke the truth to the Tsar and accused him of cruelty with his subjects. Ivan, who ordinarily becomes infuriated at the slightest contradiction, at first listened to the truthful speech of the Metropolitan. The executions became less frequent. Even the oprichniki (secret corps) grew quiet, seeing the respect the tsar had for the Hierarch and being afraid of his accusations. But such a situation did not last long. Angry by the accusations

of St. Philip, the Terrible constructed a cathedral, on which he exposed some of the slanderers against the Hierarch. The unrighteously accused sufferer was imprisoned in a dingy cell of the Theophany (Bogoiavlenskii) Monastery, fettered with chains, with a heavy collar around his neck, and was deprived of food for a few days in succession. Then he was transferred and imprisoned in the Tver Otroch Monastery. Within a year during Ivan's travel through Tver, St. Philip was strangled with a pillow in his own cell on December 23, 1569 by Maliuta Skuratov. He is glorified by the Holy Church, as "a true bishop and sufferer", "a true champion", "a pillar of Orthodoxy", "a Russian lamp". The relics of St. Philip repose in fragrant holiness according to the certificate of the celebration of the truth of God in the Moscow Dormition Cathedral. See July 3.

*Troparion, tone 8*

**O Successor of the rulers of the highest throne,  
Pillar of Orthodoxy, Champion of truth, New Confessor and Hierarch Philip,  
Who gave your life for your flock,  
Therefore having boldness before Christ,  
Pray for the Orthodox Emperor, for this city and people,  
Who worthily honor your holy memory.**

*Kontakion, tone 3*

**Let us praise the All-wise Philip,  
Teacher of Orthodoxy, true Herald and Golden-mouthed Zealot, Russian Lamp,  
Who through his words fed his children with the food of understanding;  
Singing his praises with the tongue, announcing hymns with the lips,  
As a secret place of the grace of God.**

**Paramoia:** 1) Prov. 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 34, 35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1:23; 15:4. 2) Wis. 4:7, 16, 17, 19-20; 5:1-7. 3) Prov. 10:31, 32; 11:2; 10:2; 11:7, 19; 13:2, 9; 15:2; 14:33; 22:12; 17:24; Wis. 6:12-16; 7:30; 8:2-4, 7-9, 13, 18, 21; 9:1-5, 10, 11, 14. **Matins Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24. **Epistle:** Heb. 13:17-21; sel. 335. **Gospel:** Jn. 10:9-16; sel. 36.

*Ven. Eustratius, Wonderworker*

He was born in the Asia Minor city of Tarsus of rich and pious parents who brought him up in the awe of God. When he was 20 years old he secretly left his parents for the Abgar Monastery near the city of Prusa (now Bursa) in Bithynia where he strictly carried out an ascetic life. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Armenian St. Eustratius became a voluntary exile, but after the death of this emperor he became the Rector of the Abgar Monastery. He died in 821 at the age of 95.

### *Holy Prophet Shemaiah*

He lived during the reign of King Solomon and his son Rehoboam. On behalf of God he forbade the latter to fight against the ten tribes who separated themselves from the descendants of David (1 Kings 12:21-24).

### *St. Peter, Bishop of Sebastea*

The younger brother of St. Basil the Great and student of his sister, the pious Macrina, he was an imitator of her piety and the solitary life of St. Basil. He was ordained a presbyter by the latter. After the death of St. Basil, he was installed as the Bishop of Sebastea, Armenia. He was present at the Second Ecumenical Council. He died at the end of the 4th Century.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0022-3.  
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