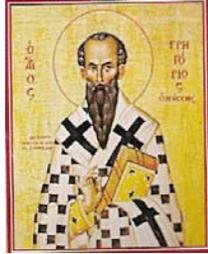


January 10

C. *Our Father among the Saints Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa*



The younger brother of St. Basil the Great, rather similar to him in appearance, he received a fine education. He was an eloquent preacher and interpreter of the Word of God at first in the rank of presbyter, and then (about the year 372) in the rank of Bishop of Nyssa in Cappadocia. He was present at the Second Ecumenical Council and the addition to the Nicene Creed concerning the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is attributed to him. Like "a sickle cutting down the assaults of the heretics" and as "fire consuming the brushwood of heresy", he wrote much against the intrigues of the Arians, for which he was deposed and spent eight years in exile. Emperor Gratian returned him to the rank of bishop. "Herald of truth, foundation of piety, source of higher dogma, torrent of teachings sweet as honey", St. Gregory was distinguished by fervent zealotry for the right faith, with co-suffering with the poor, by patience, with love of peace, directness and with rare respect for his spiritual children. He died after the year 394. He left a few studies and books in defense of Orthodoxy and on the intrigues of the Arians and Macedonians.

Kontakion, tone 1

**Watching with the eye of your soul O Bishop,
Revealing yourself as a watchful shepherd for the world,
And with the staff of your wisdom,
And your warm intercession,
You drove away all slanderers like wolves,
And preserved your flock unharmed, O all-wise Gregory.**

Epistle: 1 Cor. 2:7-11; sel. 151. **Gospel:** Mt. 10:1, 5-8; sel. 34.

Ven. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene

He was born during the reign of Justin the Younger of rich and devout parents. Leaving adolescence, he married, but soon became widowed and was tonsured a monk. At 30 years of age Dometian was already elected bishop of Melitene in Great Armenia on the Euphrates River. Distinguished with wisdom and the zealotry in faith, he was powerful in word and deed and adorned himself "with the divine goodness of virtue and divine obedience to Christ". As a

favorite of Emperor Maurice, he frequently received wealthy gifts from the latter, but always distributed them for the maintenance of the poor. God glorified him both in this life and after death with miracles, being worthy of His grace "to resolve infirmities and to drive away demons". Ven. Dometian died in 601.

Ven. Marcian, Presbyter and Economos (steward) of the Great Church

Having been born in Rome, in youth he moved to Constantinople where he received his elementary education. From his youth he especially liked to visit the temples of God and, after the death of his parents, he used his rich inheritance for building and decorating churches and for aid to the poor. Destroying "carnal sweets by abstinence", he adorned his life "with the divine goodness of virtue". Soon the patriarch, seeing his highly moral life, ordained him a presbyter and appointed him to be the Economos of the Great Constantinopolitan Church. St. Marcian loved poverty, went about in ragged clothes and in all refused everything excessive. The Lord awarded him the gift of working wonders for his virtuous life. In the name of Jesus Christ and by prayer he cast out demons and healed the sick. In deep old age he went about the streets at night and, finding none to oversee the dead, he washed the dead and committed them to the earth. He died in the second half of the Fifth Century (after 471) and was buried in the Monastery of the Holy Forerunner John.

The service for Venerable Marcian is sung at Compline.

†. Our Ven. Father Paul of Obnora, Wonderworker of Vologda

He was born in Moscow in 1317 and from his youth he was distinguished for diligence toward the temple of God and mercy to the poor. When he reached 22 years of age, his parents wanted him to marry, but he wished to keep a chaste life and secretly left his parent's home for the Nativity of Christ (Rozhdestvensky) Monastery facing the shore of the Volga River. Here he accepted monasticism and led the strictest life in order "to please God and confirm His commandments". From there he transferred to the Radonezh Monastery to the Ven. Sergius and lived there for a few years in cellular obedience. He fervently took advantage of the precepts of the divinely wise elder, who taught him perfect denial of the will and all monastic virtues and carried out all his monastic obediences from the kitchen to the refectory. Then, with the blessing of the Venerable One, he settled in a hermetical cell far from the monastery and practiced asceticism in it for 15 years. "The spiritual rector, the great Sergius, was amazed, observing the great abstinence of Paul" and "seeing him, still living according to the way of God, unshaken by any assaults of the enemies". When the brethren began to visit the silent hermit, he asked the Ven. Sergius for his blessing to go into the wilderness, at which time he gave him a copper cross, the same one that now lies on a pillow in the reliquary of the Ven. Paul. After wandering for a long time he stopped in the Komel forests near Vologda and spent three years in the hollow of a linden tree, "in hunger and

thirst, and in the rest of the hardships, not giving his body rest, in order to receive future repose". Then he went to the Nurma River, built himself hut a bit more spacious than the hollow of the linden tree and dug a well. Five days of the week he abided without food and ate only a little bread and water on Saturday and Sunday. Ven. Paul began to desire to lead the way of life of a monastic under his management. Having asked the blessing of Metropolitan Photius, he constructed the Temple of the Holy Trinity and also constructed the monastery (in the 72nd year of his life), which received the name Obnora from Obnora Volost (township) (see Vologda Diocese). Having written a strict Typicon (Ustav) for the brethren, Ven. Paul charged his disciple Alexander with the management of the monastery, and he himself lived as a hermit in a cell on the mountain, and came to the monastery only on Saturdays and Sundays. On these days he sat down with the brethren for a meal, but only ate bread and water. He never used milk or fish. He reposed at the age of 112 years in 1429. The relics of Ven. Paul were found in 1546 and the following year he joined the choir of the Saints.

Troparion, tone 1

**Inflamed with divine love from youth, O venerable Paul,
And hating all the attractions in the world and loving Christ alone,
You settled in the inner wilderness for this reason,
To live with wild beasts entirely for Christ.
Therefore the All-seeing Eye beholding your labors,
Enriched you even after your repose with the gift of wonders.
Therefore we hymn you:
Pray unceasingly for us all,
Who ever revere your honorable memory in hymns.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**You inculcated in all your intelligent desire for God
And you followed Him irretrievably with all your soul,
And settled in the wilderness and there lived like an angel.
You were for many the way to salvation:
For this reason Christ has glorified you
And enriched you with the gift of wonders.
Therefore we all sing to you:
Rejoice, O Venerable Paul, the desert dweller.**

Paramoia: 1) Wis. 5:15-24; 6:1-3. 2) Wis. 4:1-9. 3) Wis. 4:7-15. **Matins Gospel:** Mt. 11:27-30; sel. 43 sel. **Epistle and Gospel:** Common for the Venerable One.

Blessed Theosba, Deaconess

Blessed Theosba (Theosebia), the sister of St. Gregory of Nyssa, a virgin, in the position of deaconess through purity and holiness of life earned the common love and died in peace in 385. St. Gregory Nazianzus honored her with praise.

Ven. Ammonium.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0023-25.
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