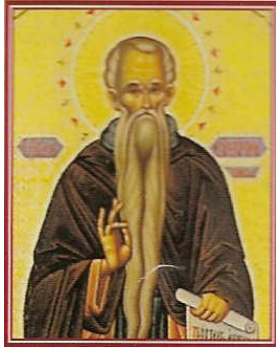


# January 20

## *G. + Our Ven. and God-bearing Father Euthymius the Great*



Ven. Euthymius was born during the reign of Emperor Gratian in Melitene (differently - Melitna [Malatia], in Great Armenia on the Euphrates) where he was ordained a presbyter. Having loved monastic life, at age 29 he secretly departed for Jerusalem and, having visited the holy places, settled in a cave near the Tharan Laura in the vicinity of Jerusalem. Here he gave all to the Lord, spending all his time in uninterrupted prayer, labor and strict abstinence. Through 5 years of asceticism in the Tharan Laura he left for the desert and settled in a mountain cave, on the right side of the road to Jericho. The holy life of the ascetic, his humility and meekness, compassion and mercy for neighbor caused many others to flock to him, and in such a way a great monastery arose that was subsequently called the Euthymius Laura. A strict ascetic, Ven. Euthymius ate food only on Saturday and Sunday, never lay down: but slept on a box, sitting or standing and held by a cord tied to the corner of his kellia. The Lord granted the holy man pleasing to Him with the grace of working wonders and clairvoyance. Through prayer he caused rain to fall from the sky, healed the incurably sick and banished demons and had the gift to foresee the spiritual condition of people. The Holy Church glorifies him as "an exceedingly merciful physician for the sick, an all-glorious feeder of the hungry, a guide of the ignorant, a chastiser of the indifferent and a defender of the orphan and the poor". Having predicted his blessed death for a week, he reposed peacefully in 473 at the age of 97 years. The Russian Hegumen Daniel saw the relics of St. Euthymius in his monastery in Palestine at the beginning of the Twelfth Century.

### *Troparion, tone 4*

**Be glad, O desert that has not given birth,  
Be good-natured, you who have not travailed:  
For a man of desires multiplied your children of the Spirit,  
Having planted them in piety,  
Having reared them in the perfection of virtue through abstinence:  
By his prayers, O Christ God, bring peace to our life.**

### *Kontakion, tone 8*

**Creation brought joy to your precious birth, O Venerable One,  
And to your divine memory they bring many wonders:  
Bestow the wealth of these on our souls and cleanse the sins of filth,**

**That we may sing: Alleluia.**

**Epistle:** Heb. 13:17-21; sel. 335. **Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

**If the Rector wishes, we do the vigil.**

*Martyrs Bassus, Eusebius, Euty chius and Basilides*

Notable courtiers during the reign of Emperor Diocletian and being witnesses of the suffering of the Nicomedian Bishop Theopemptus (see Jan. 5) they believed in Christ and were baptized. Because of this, by an order of the Emperor, all of them received a martyr's death in Nicomedia about the year 303 together with their 5 slaves. Bassus was buried in the ground up to his waist and the upper body was chopped up. Euty chius was tied hand and foot to 4 pillars and lynched. Eusebius was hanged with his head down and cut into pieces. Basilides was stabbed in the stomach with a knife.

*Martyrs Innas, Pinnas and Rimmas*

Sts. Innas, Pinnas and Rimmas, Slavs of Little Scythia, were disciples of the Holy Apostle Andrew<sup>1</sup>. Through their own sermons about Christ they converted many pagans of the barbarians to the true faith and baptized them. The prince of barbarians, angry with them for this, tried to force them to abandon their faith in Christ and to worship idols. When they remained unshakable in their faith in Christ, he ordered to hammer piles into the ice of the river and to tie the martyrs to them. Exhausted by the terrible cold and the pressure of ice, the saints gave up their souls to the Lord. They posit that the place of their torture was the Danube River. The burden of their suffering carries back to the First Century.

*Martyrs Phyr sus and Agnes.*

*Emperor Leo the Great, Makelles [Butcher]*

First of the sovereigns solemnly crowned in church by Patriarch Anatolius, he reigned from 457 to 474. He issued the law that those convicted of simony be deposed and declared them deprived of civil rights.

*Martyr Anna* suffered for Christ in Rome.

*Martyr Zachary [Zachariah]*

He suffered for Christ by the Turks in the year 1782 in ancient Patras (in the Peloponnesus) because being an apostate he again converted to the Christian faith. The sufferer died being stretched out on the rack.

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<sup>1</sup>In the Menologions issued by the Moscow Synodal printing house in 1863 and 1868, these Saints are called *martyrs*; but in the Menologion issued by the same printing house in 1891, the names of these saints, on the basis of careful research, are attributed as *male* and should be considered as such. Thus it follows that these names should not be given to persons of feminine gender.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0039-0040.  
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