

January 30

D. Holy Hieromartyr Hippolytus, Pope of Rome, and with him Censorinus, Sabinus, the virgin Chryse and 20 Martyrs

St. Censorinus was a high ranking dignitary in the reign of Emperor Claudius the Second. Accused of confession of Christ by an informer, he was arrested and imprisoned. Here by the power of the name of Christ he raised the dead and this miracle converted the prison guards to Christ, who were beheaded with him.

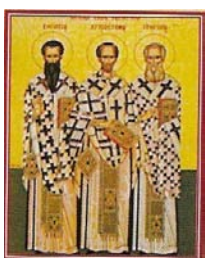
Then the virgin Chryse underwent torture as a true Christian woman and after various tortures was drowned with a stone on her neck.

St. Sabinus also during torture gave up his spirit to the Lord.

St. Hippolytus, Bishop of the Roman port of Ostia at the mouth of the Tiber, having learned about this and not looking at his declining years and weakness of bodily powers, appeared before the torturer and accused him of inhumanity. The impious judge turned St. Hippolytus over to executioners and after torture commanded that the bound Hierarch be drowned. All suffered in 269. The relics of the Hieromartyr Hippolytus are found in the Church of the Holy Martyrs Lawrence and Pope Damasus in Rome.

The Order for Hieromartyr Hippolytus is sung in Compline.

✙ *Our Holy Fathers among the Saints and Great Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom*



The feast of these three Prelates was established in Constantinople in 1084, after a dispute among Christians as to who among the designated hierarchs is the greater and consequently they appeared to Metropolitan John of Euchaita with a commandment to establish one general feast in their name to end the conflict. In service of this day the great Hierarchs are glorified as "earthly angels, heavenly men", "pillars of piety", "You shepherded the people with divine teaching and various virtuous formations", "Wisest physicians of spiritual and physical illnesses, ever-flowing rivers of the Spirit watering the face of the earth with your words", "advocates of firm belief", "the foundation of the faithful, the downfall of the heretics", "stars illuminating the universe", "pillars and foundation of the Church".

Troparion, tone 4

**As of one manner with the Apostles,
And teachers of the universe,**

**Pray to the Master of all,
To grant peace to the universe,
And great mercy to our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**The sacred and God-manifesting preachers,
And the greatest of teachers, O Lord,
You accepted in the satisfaction of your blessing and repose:
For you accepted their labors and death as a whole burnt offering,
O Only One glorified in Your saints.**

Paramoegas: 1) Deut. 1:8-11, 15-17; 2) Deut. 10:14-21; 3) Wis. 3:1-9.
Matins Gospel: Jn. 10:9-16; sel. 36. **Epistle:** Heb. 13:7-16; sel. 334. **Gospel:** Mt. 5:14-19; sel. 11.

Note the chapter in the Ustav [Typikon] and Menaion. If the Three Hierarchs falls on a Sunday: 1) of the Publican, 2) of the Prodigal, 3) of Meat-fare, 4) on the Saturday of Meat-fare (we sing their service on the Friday before), 5) on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday of Cheese-fare, 6) on Wednesday or Friday of Cheese-fare (we sing their service on Tuesday or Thursday of the same week).

Martyr Theophilus the New

Martyr Theophilus was born and nurtured in Constantinople. Being a Voivode [military governor], he was captured by the Agarians who tried to force him to renounce Christ. St. Theophilus bravely condemned their pagan impiety and was imprisoned on Cyprus for this. After a four year term in prison they executed him with a sword dying as a martyr in the year 784.

Ven. Zeno

The son of wealthy parents in Pontus, he in his youth served in the army. He returned to the imperial court holding the post of courier of imperial letters.

Having arrived in Antioch, he found a cave in which the dead were buried in one of the mountains surrounding the city and for 40 whole years lived in this certain tomb, leading the severest life, cleansing his soul, sharpening his eye, meditating on God, believing, "the ascension to God in his heart". Once a week St. Zeno went to church and received the Holy Mysteries.

Zeno had neither beds, nor fireplace, nor lamps, etc. in his dwelling place. The unique things, being jewelry for him, were books, which he borrowed from his acquaintances. He wore shabby sackcloth. For food he ate the bread that a known pilgrim brought him and that in small quantity. For drink the ascetic drank the water which he brought for himself for which he went daily from the mountain to the well.

With his unusual humility filled abundantly with gifts of grace, he understood himself poor in spirit, as having nothing and knowing nothing. The Bishop of Antioch Alexander received his will for the scanty estate that remained after the death of the saint for distribution to the poor. He died at the beginning of the Fifth Century.

Those who suffered with Chryse are: Felicius, Maximus, Herculanus, Venerius, Styracius, Minas, Commodus, Hermes, Maurus, Eusebius, Rusticus, Monagrius, Amandinus, Olympia, Cyprus, Theodore, Tribune, Presbyter Maximus, Deacon Archelaus and Bishop Cyrinus (actually nineteen martyrs in all. The Eastern monuments consider Theodore as two persons, Theodore and Tribune).

Martyr Theodore of Mitylene

He was born in Mitylene, was married and had children. Being a Christian, he renounced Christ and accepted Mohammedanism. But he soon repented, left his country and went to Mt. Athos where he was again numbered with the flock of Christ. Tormented by the heavy sin of the denial of Christ, he wished to wash off this sin with his own blood and, appeared before the Mohammedan judge and declared himself a Christian. The offended judge sentenced Theodore to severe torture after which he was strangled with a rope. His honorable body, thrown in the sea, was taken by Christians and buried in the Temple of John the Forerunner in 1784.

Peter, King of the Bulgarians

The son of the martial Bulgarian Prince Simeon, he all the more loved peace instead of war during his rule. He was the contemporary of Ven. John of Rila (see Oct. 19) to whom he frequently turned to for guidance and advice. He was 56 years old when he died in the year 967.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0056-0057.
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