

# February 15

## *B. Holy Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy*

He was the servant of St. Philemon (see Nov. 22). Saved from punishment for some kind of offense, Onesimus fled to Rome, where he was converted to Christ by Apostle Paul. Recognizing his guilt before the Lord and having been taught by the Apostle Paul to search for freedom in spirit and piety, Onesimus decided to return to Philemon and asked the Apostle Paul to take part in his reconciliation with his lord. The Apostle wrote a brief letter to Philemon, asking the latter to receive the fugitive slave as a beloved brother, as he received the Apostle. Philemon not only forgave Onesimus, but also granted him freedom. After the death of the Apostle Paul, St. Onesimus preached Christ in Spain, Greece and Asia Minor and in extreme old age became the Bishop of Ephesus, after Apostle John the Theologian and Timothy. He died as a martyr in Rome about the year 109.

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**Like a beam from the sun you shone to the universe,  
O Blessed One,  
Shining with the rays of the resplendent Paul,  
Who enlightened the world.  
Therefore we honor you, O Glorious Onesimus.**

### *The Ven. Eusebius, Syrian Hermit*

He practiced asceticism near the village of Asihi and for more than 90 years lived in great abstinence. He lived in the open air, patiently endured the wintry cold and the summer heat, ate peas and beans soaked in water, and occasionally figs. Already more than 90 years old and in the weakest health, he spent the seven weeks of Great Lent, content with 15 figs. The great ascetic died after the year 400 (in the opinion of some people - in 440), in extreme old age.

*Venerable Ones Paphnutius and his daughter Euphrosyne* see Sept. 25.

*Martyr Major* suffered for Christ in Gaza during the reign of Diocletian in \_04.

### *Dalmatian Icon of the Mother of God*

This icon is in the Dalmatian Dormition Monastery, Perm Province. Also the monk Dalmatus, founder of the monastery, brought the icon here in 1644. Depicted on the icon is the Dormition of the Mother of God.

*Vienna Icon of the Mother of God*, that is in Ugra. The Mother of God is represented on the icon with the child Jesus sitting on her left hand.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 85-86  
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © February 3, 2005. All rights reserved.*