

February 18

F. Our Father among the Saints Leo, Pope of Rome (440-461)



He was known for his piety and learning. As a true shepherd of the flock, he was a zealous defender of the Orthodox teaching against heresies of the Manichaeans and the Eutychians. He accepted personal participation in the condemnation of the heresy of Eutychius in the Council of Chalcedon. In 452 St. Leo by the power of his words kept Attila (leader of the Huns) from destroying Rome, and in 455 convinced Genseric (king of the Vandals) not to shed blood and not to burn the buildings in Rome. For his piety and zealousness for Orthodoxy he is called "great". He died in 461, leaving an epistle to Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, about the two natures in Jesus Christ, up to 100 sermons, simple enough and powerful, and up to 140 letters of rich psychological observations to various persons. The relics of St. Leo repose in the chapel named for him in the Vatican cathedral in Rome.

Kontakion, tone 3

**Sitting on the throne of priesthood, O Glorious One,
You stopped the mouths of the rational lions
With divinely-inspired dogmas of the precious Trinity,
And illumined your flock with the light of knowledge of God.
Therefore you have been glorified as a divine mystic of the grace of God.**

(1991 OCA Yearbook translation)

St. Agapitus, Bishop of Synnada

Born in Cappadocia, from his youth he practiced asceticism as a monk in one monastery. During the reign of Licinius he was a confessor for Christ. During the reign of Constantine the Great, he was elected by the clergy and people to be bishop. He died in peace in extreme old age in Phrygia in the 4th century.

St. Flavian Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople

The heir of St. Proclus, he proved to be a firm defender of Orthodoxy. He died within 3 days after the beatings he received at the "Robber" Council of Ephesus (449) from the defenders of the Eutychian heresy. The relics of the holy confessor were transferred to Constantinople in 451 and placed in the Temple of the Holy Apostles.

Repose of the Ven. Cosmas of Yakhroma

The Ven. Cosmas accepted monasticism in the Kiev Monastery of the Caves, but after a time, by an inspiration from above, left the Monastery of the Caves and went to the Yakhroma River, where, within 40 versts (26 miles) from

Vladimir, he founded the Dormition Monastery (see Vladimir Diocese). Elected as rector of the Monastery, the Ven. Cosmas led the strictest ascetic life. He received pilgrims and gave good advice and direction to those seeking salvation. The Venerable One died in extreme old age on February 18, 1492. Many healings at his grave marked the holiness of the departed saint. His relics are in a hidden place in the Dormition Church in the monastery founded by him (See Oct. 14).

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p.0088
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