

February 29

B. *Our Ven. Father Cassian the Roman*



He was born in Southern Gaul, near Marseilles. In his youth he left his country and practiced asceticism in Bethlehem, the Thebaid and Nitria. In Constantinople he was ordained a deacon by St. John Chrysostom. Then Ven. Cassian went to Rome. Ordained a presbyter in Rome, he left for Marseilles where he founded two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. He died in the year 435. His relics are in the St. Victor Monastery in Marseilles where he was the rector. The Church glorifies him as a humble, gentle and strict ascetic. St. Cassian left a collection of the Lives of the Saints, canons of monasticism and compositions against the Nestorians¹.

If in February there are 28 days, the service of Ven. Cassian is sung in Compline (Typikon [Ustav] Feb. 29).

Ven. John, Spoken of as Barsanuphius

For his virtuous life John was elected Bishop of Damascus. Soon he secretly left his pastorate and under the name Barsanuphius practiced asceticism in a Nitrian monastery, distinguished by gentleness and serving his brethren as a simple monk. He wrote many edifying books and died at the end of the 5th century.

Martyr Theoctiristus, (according to the "Menologion of the East", Theostirictus is more correct). He was the Hegumen of the Pelekete Monastery near Prusa and suffered for iconolatry in the 8th century. His nose and hands were burned with hot tar.

Devpeterovsky Icons of the Mother of God

This icon appeared in the year 1392. It is found on an ancient list in the St. Nicholas Church in the village of Batiushkov (Batatnov), Dmitrovsky District, Moscow Province.

Another icon in the Tambov Transfiguration Cathedral was glorified in 1833. After praying before this icon an innocently imprisoned husband was returned to his wife.

¹The people consider this an unlucky year with general illnesses, fallen cattle, poor harvests, adversities for marriages and in general a year of all kinds of troubles. The people even transfer this superstitious view of bad luck on that ridiculous basis to Ven. Cassian because the day of commemorating Ven. Cassian on February 29 occurs only in the year of bad luck.