

# March 2

## **B. Holy Hieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene**

He was born in Galatia, preached Christ on the Island of Cyprus, where he also was installed as the bishop of the city of Cyrene. For converting many pagans to Christ he and his flock severely suffered during the reign of Licinius, being "beaten with leather straps and stretched out on a tree and cruelly scraped", "placed on a fiery bier", and "pierced in the feet with nails". After this severe torture he was imprisoned. During the reign of Constantine the Great the holy sufferer was released from prison and died in peace in the year 320.

### *Kontakion, tone 3*

**Having denounced the depths of false belief,  
You also wounded the delusion of idolatry with the Orthodox faith.  
Having been a divine whole burnt offering,  
You also refreshed the ends of the earth with wonderworking.  
O Father Hierarch Theodotus,  
Pray to Christ God to grant us great mercy.**

### *+ Repose of our father among the saints Arsenius, Bishop of Tver*

Hierarch Arsenius was born in Tver of pious, rich and famous parents and received the best education for that time. After the death of his parents and having distributed his wealthy inheritance to the poor, he left for the Kievan Caves Monastery where he became a monk. Metropolitan Cyprian, seeing his virtuous life, ordained him a hierodeacon and assigned him to his staff. After the unification of the Moscow and Kievan Metropolias and Cyprian moved to Moscow, St. Arsenius was installed as the bishop in the city of Tver (in the year 1390). Confirming piety in his flock by the example of his way of life and pacifying enmity among the local princes, he built some temples in the city of Tver and its environs. He also founded the Zheltikov Monastery (see the Tver Diocese). For his holy life the hierarch was worthy of the gift of wonders from God.

In the church hymns, St. Arsenius had a "venerable mind", was "undefeated by passions", had "a wise and humble word", had "a pure soul" and was "a teacher of the true faith to princes, a firm defender of the grandees, merciful to orphans like a father, a warm intercessor for widows, comfort for the grieving and healer of the sick".

He died in peace on March 2, 1409. In 1483 his relics were found incorrupt and now repose in the Zheltikov Monastery founded by him.

*Troparion, tone 8*

**Having lived piously as a hierarch,  
You enlightened the people with your teaching.  
And having greatly practiced asceticism in the temple of the Immaculate One,  
And having been the favorite of monks,  
You received the crown of your flock from Christ.  
Therefore honoring you as deputy and great hierarch of the apostolic throne,  
Let us your children pray, O Blessed One:  
That we may be delivered from all troubles by your prayers to Christ,  
O Our Father Arsenius, Hierarch of Christ.**

*Kontakion, tone 8*

**The all-pure church joyfully receiving your honorable relics,  
Honorably carried into it by many hieromonks and right-believing princes,  
Which were received as a highly-valued treasure:  
Therefore even now as speaking sheep we surround you,  
Standing around your reliquary, lovingly cry out to you:  
Do not forget your children, O Father,  
Whom you gathered and loved, O Wise One,  
That we may cry out to you:  
Rejoice O Hierarch Arsenius, Our Shepherd and Teacher.**

**Paramoia:** See Feb. 11. **Matins Gospel:** Jn. 10:9-16; sel 36. **Epistle:** Heb. 5:4-10; sel. 311. **Gospel:** Mt. 5:14-19; sel. 11.

**His Synaxis is done in Tver (Typikon [Ustav] March 2).**

*Ven. Agatho* practiced asceticism in the Skete Hermitage, Egypt during the first half of the 5th century.

*St. Troadius* died after being tortured in Pontian Neocaesarea during the Decius persecution.



*Virgin Martyr Euthalia* was born in the city of Leontini, Sicily. For her faith in Christ she was killed by her own brother, Voivode Sermilianus in the year 257.

*440 martyrs* captured in Italy by the Lombards and for refusing to participate in Pagan burnt offerings were killed by the sword at the end of the 4th century.

### *Ven. Brothers Sabbas and Barsanuphius of Tver*

They were hegumens of the Savvino Monastery (founded in 1397 and closed in 1784) (now the village of Savvino, Tver Province) named after Ven. Sabbas (see Oct. 1). Ven. Barsanuphius served as hegumen for 5 years (up to the end of 1416), but after him Ven. Sabbas directed the monastery for about 50 years. Ven. Barsanuphius liked to read edifying books, took them to read to lovers of Christ and to the brethren of his monastery, especially the hieromonks and imposed on others under obedience the same obedience in order to write of the holy father's ascetical treatises. He knew all the Holy Scriptures by heart and so deeply understood its meaning that even Metropolitan Photius turned to him for an explanation of obscure passages.

Venerable Sabbas and Barsanuphius are buried in the Savvino Monastery. Yet in first half of the present century their tombs were whole and they sang Moliebens over them. But today the memory of the place of burial of the venerable ones was lost (For details see the Tverskiia Eparkhial'nie Vedomosti [Tver Diocesan News] 1887, 14).

### *Ven. Sabbatius of Tver and his disciple Euphrosyne*

Ven. Sabbatius was the founder of the St. Sabbatius Hermitage (closed in 1764) (about 12 versts [8 miles] from Tver, now the village of Savvatievo) where he also carried out a strictly ascetic life, exhausting his body with chains. Venerable Cornelius of Komel and Joseph of Volokolamsk came to him to be trained in monastic life. He died in the first half of the 15th century. His tomb is in the Church of the Sign in the village of Savvatievo.

His worthy disciple and follower was St. Euphrosyne, who lived 60 years in the hermitage without ever leaving it. Ven. Euphrosyne was granted the gift of working wonders by God and was deeply revered by the people, princes and boyars. He died in the second half of the 15th century.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0099-0101.  
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