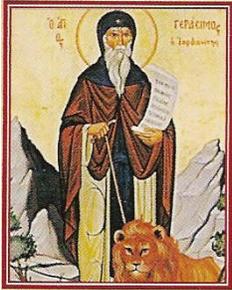


March 4

G. *Our Ven. Father Gerasimus of the Jordan*



He was born in the city of Lycia, Asia Minor. He was distinguished by meekness and having loved God more than earthly bliss he abandoned secular life in his youth. At first he practiced asceticism in the Thebaid desert, from where about the year 450 he came to Jordan and founded a monastery near it in which he established the model of the strictest way of life, bestowing an example of monastic life for all the brethren. For five days each monk practiced asceticism in prayer and was engaged in weaving of baskets, partook of bread and water only and abided in solitude in his kellia, having only a pitcher for water by his side and a bastmat for bed. On Saturdays and Sundays the brethren gathered for the liturgy and partaking of the Holy Mysteries and on these days ate cooked food and a little wine. In the life of Ven. Gerasimus it is narrated that he once met a lion in the desert that had a splinter in its paw and he removed the splinter and bandaged the wound. Since then the healed lion followed the Saint everywhere and served him as a pet. St. Gerasimus died in the year 475.

Kontakion, tone 4

**Having burned with care from above,
You preferred the harshness of the Jordan desert to all the delights of the world.
From where a wild beast served you until your death,
In obedience and died in grief on your grave, O Father.
Thus God has glorified you.
When you pray to Him
Remember us, O Father Gerasimus.**

Martyrs Paul and his Sister Juliana and with them Quadratus, Acacius and Stratonicus

They suffered during the reign of Aurelian, about the year 273, in Ptolemais [Acco, Acre], Phoenicia. Being present during the entrance of Aurelian into Ptolemais [Acco, Acre], St. Paul crossed himself and for this was imprisoned and then subjected to severe tortures. Prior to this his sister Juliana began to accuse the torturer of cruelty and for this she was subjected to torture. But protected by God, the martyrs remained sound and safe. Seeing such a wonder, three of the torturers (Quadratus, Acacius and Stratonicus) converted to Christ and for this they were beheaded by the sword, and together with them both Sts. Paul and Juliana.

St. Gregory, Bishop of Constantia [Salamis] (Constantsa) City of Cyprus, 13th Century

Ven. James the Faster

A hermit practicing asceticism in a certain cave in the country of Phoenicia in the 6th century, Ven. James had authority over impure spirits and the gift of working wonders from God. He was exposed to extreme temptations by the devil. Once, tempted to secretly sin with prostitutes, he burned the fingers of his left hand in fire, only to not allow the sinful thought be in him. But, having dared to dream of his life pleasing to God, he deeply fell: he dishonored a maiden healed by him and he killed her to conceal the crime. Not despairing in the forgiveness of God, after his heavy fall into sin, he enclosed himself in a burial cave full of bones of the dead near Mt. Carmel and spent 10 years in tears of repentance, through which he also earned forgiveness from the Lord and the return of the grace of working wonders taken away from him. He died in the 6th century.

St. Daniel, Right-believing Prince of Moscow

A son of St. Alexander Nevsky, he was born in 1261. In life he was distinguished with piety, meekness and a peaceful disposition. The Moscow principedom increased when the Pereiaslavl principedom was peacefully annexed to Moscow in 1302. On the shore of the Moscow River he built a temple with a monastery in honor of Ven. Daniel the Stylite in which he received the schema before his death which followed in 1303. In 1652 his relics were found incorrupt and now repose openly in the monastery he founded (see Moscow Diocese).

St. Viacheslav [Wenceslas], Prince of Czechia

This day celebrates the transfer of his relics from Boleslaw to Prague in 932. His commemoration is on September 28.

Blessed Prince Basil (Vasilko) of Rostov

He was born in 1209. Having empathy with the boyars and through his own love he won over their hearts. He combined in him courage with intelligence and righteousness with knowledge. He was expert in everything and capable of all. He was a father to orphans and great comfort to the sorrowing. The eyes of his heart were opened by God to all church ranks and he was the father for everything spiritual and poor. In appearance he was "handsome with bright and piercing eyes".

He valiantly and courageously fought against the Tartars on the Siti River in the year 1238, was covered with wounds and captured by the Tartars. Exhausted by the labor of severe battle, with grief for his country, suffering from his wounds, he was presented to Batu and, rejecting the flattering promises of glory and threats with horrors of torture, he refused to act on behalf of Batu and to accept his faith.

The Tartars thrust their knives into him and the sufferer released his spirit to God in silent prayer.

His body was found in the Sherensky Forest, Tver Province. It was transferred to Rostov and placed in the cathedral temple.

Gregory, Bishop of Assos (Ephesian Metropolia), died in 1150.

Repose Ven. Gerasimus of Vologda

Born in Kiev in the year 1147 he came to the shore of the Vologda River and there on the Kaisarov tributary he founded a monastery with a temple in the name of the Holy Trinity (now Trinity church). By the example of his way of life and his teaching he contributed to the establishment of the Christian faith in that country. From the Lord he had the gift "to give sight to the blind and to alleviate the severity of human illnesses in the glory of Christ". The venerable one died in the year 1178. His relics repose in a hidden place in the Trinity Church.

Murder of Ven. Joasaph and Basil [Vasili]

Ven. Joasaph was Hegumen of the Pskovian Snietogorsky Monastery and was killed together with 17 other monks by the Livonian Germans who attacked Pskov in 1299.

At the same time Ven. Basil, the Hegumen of the Pskovian Savior Mirozhsky Monastery was killed.

Their relics are in a hidden place in their respective monasteries.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0101b-0102
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