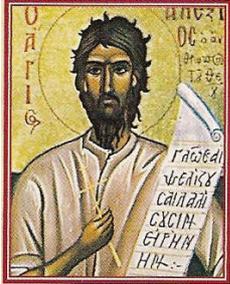


# March 17

## A. *Our Ven. Father Alexis, Man of God*



Ven. Alexis was born in Rome about the year 360 of the rich and pious Senator Euthymian and his wife Aglais and received a fine education. Having married a royal relative at the request of his parents, on the day of the wedding he secretly disappeared from home and boarded a ship and left for Edessa. The mournful parents vainly searched everywhere for their son, who lived in Edessa for 17 years in shabby clothes, living on the church porch.

Carrying out a "quiet", "silent, without malice and gentle life", St. Alexis observed a strict fast, ate little bread and water, but partook of the Holy Mysteries every Sunday. He distributed his received alms to other aging beggars. He combined both internal and external asceticism, continually exercising with meditation and prayer. His body dried out, darkened and became bent; the physical beauty completely faded; his eyes grew dull and drooped. Avoiding human glory, St. Alexis sailed to Tarsus, but adverse winds led him to his home country.

The Saint saw in this the instruction of God - to live at his parents home, and, unrecognized by them, spent 20 more years in a hut at the gate of his parent's home as a beggar. Daily Euthymian sent him food from his table, but he distributed it to other beggars, and ate only bread and water and that only so much as to not die from hunger. Nights he spent in prayer without sleep, and as before he partook of the Holy Mysteries every Sunday.

The servants caused him all kinds of grief and reviling: they beat him, pulled his hair, poured slop on his head, etc. But the voluntary sufferer took it all with meekness: so great was his patience.

Adding to this mournful patience there was opposite his hut a window of that room in which his spouse lived, frequently together with his own mother-in-law mourning the loss of her husband. His heart was overstressed from pain and pity for them; but love for God surpassed love for them.

Informed beforehand by the Lord about his death, Ven. Alexis wrote about his life and peacefully turned his spirit over to God. St. Alexis left the letter which after his death was also recognized by his parents and wife.

After his death the holy body of Alexis then began to exude fragrant and wonderworking myrrh and for an entire week was not buried, granting healing to all those flowing to him. "Princes of the people, kings and priests came down" "to bury" St. Alexis. He was buried in the Church of Martyr Boniface on Aventine Hill on March 17, 411. His relics were found incorruptible in 1216 and a magnificent church was built over them.

*Troparion, tone. 4*

**Elevated in virtue, and purified in mind,  
You also attained the desired goal:  
Having adorned your way of life with passionlessness,  
And accepting tolerable fasting with a pure conscience,  
Abiding in prayer as if bodiless,  
You shone like the sun in the world, O All-Blessed Alexis.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Being like a foreigner in the house of your parents,  
You were installed in it as a model of the poor:  
And receiving the crown of glory after your repose,  
You were revealed wonderful on earth,  
O Alexis, Man of God, joy of both angels and men.**

**+ *Our Ven. Father Hegumen Macarius, Wonderworker of Kaliazin***

He was born the son of the Boyar Basil Kozha in the village of Gribkovo, now Kozhino, near the city of Kashin. Following the wish of his parents he married a noble maiden. Within a year his parents died and within three years after them his wife also died.

Not having anything that would tie him to secular life, Macarius was tonsured a monk in the Nikolaev-Klobukov Monastery (see Tver Diocese). He soon left there together with 7 monks and found a beautiful isolated place 18 versts [12 miles] from the city near the Volga River on the Boyar Koliaga estate, founded a monastery there known as the Trinity Kaliazin Monastery (see Tver Diocese). He also was its first hegumen. He spent time in fasting and prayer, wore heavy chains, worked as a simple monk and went about in tattered clothes, setting an example of meekness and humility for his brethren. The Lord awarded him the gift of working wonders and clairvoyance.

"Having purified his mind through abstinence", "having enlightened his soul through the flow of tears" and "adorned with passionlessness", "the great pleaser of God" died at the age of 83 years in 1483.

In 1521 his relics were found incorrupt and placed in the Trinity Church of his monastery.

*Troparion of tone 8*

**O Father Macarius, you destroyed carnal subtleties by abstinence and vigil:  
For you poured out your sweat through them,  
Like the trumpet blares before God, you proclaim your admonitions:  
And after death your honorable relics are a source of healing:  
Therefore we cry out to you:  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Desiring the highest things,  
Having delighted in abstinence, labor and sweat,  
You bridled the flesh.  
Receiving the gift of wonders from Christ God,  
You appeared as a radiant light.  
Therefore the Church of Christ glorifies you,  
Our Venerable Father Macarius.**

**Paramoia:** See 2, 3 and 1st of Jan. 10. **Matins Gospel:** Mt. 11:27-30; sel. 43. **Epistle:** Gal. 5:22-26, 6:1-2; sel. 213. **Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

**His Synaxis is done in his monastery.**

*Martyr Marinus* after being tortured for Christ was beheaded by the sword in the 3rd century.

*Memory of the Quake*

According to George Amartola's chronicle, the quake or earthquake occurred during the reign of Constantine the Great in Campania. During the quake 13 cities were destroyed and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the sun grew so dark that stars appeared.

*Ven. Martyr Paul* was burned to death for iconolatry on Cyprus about the year 777.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0113- 0115.  
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