

## *March 20*

### *E. Our Ven. Fathers John, Sergius, Patrick and Others Slain in the Monastery of St. Sabbas*

These holy fathers of the Monastery of St. Sabbas near Jerusalem (see Dec. 5) were beaten by the Saracens in 796. "Having lived the way of life equal of the angels", "glorious" "passion bearers" the barbarians fell upon them "beating them with clubs and hurling stones at them and cutting them asunder with weapons" "and wasting them with fire". There were two attacks by the Saracens: during the first massacre 13 fathers died; in the second 18 monks were choked by smoke in a cave.

#### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**You openly disdained the pleasure of earthly and corruptible things,  
All-blessed Ones, choosing a way of life in the desert.  
You despised the most beautiful things of the world and temporal food;  
Hence you were vouchsafed the heavenly kingdom,  
Celebrating with the choirs of martyrs and ascetics.  
Therefore honoring your memory,  
We earnestly call out to you:  
O Fathers, deliver us from tribulations.**

#### *St. Nicetas the Confessor, Archbishop of Apollonia (in Bithynia)*

He was known for his piety, knowledge of Holy Scriptures and eloquence. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Armenian, for venerating holy icons he was imprisoned in Anatolia where he died.

#### *Martyr Photina the Samaritan Woman*

She conversed with Christ at the well of Jacob (Jn. 4, 4-42). According to the Prologue, she once healed the official Sebastian, who "with inflamed cheeks fell to the ground from a strong, severe and cruel illness". In the year 66 after a sermon on Christ she was thrown into a well. Of her company are the known martyrs: Victor, Photinus, Joses, Anatola, Phota, Photis, Parasceva, Cyriacia, Sebastian and Domnina.

#### *Seven Women Martyrs (virgins): Alexandra, Claudia, Euphrasia, Matrona, Juliana, Euthymia and Theodosia*

All of them have suffered for Christ in the year 310 in Amisus (now Samsun in Pontus by the gulf of the same name).

*Martyr Myron of Crete*, for non-acceptance of Islam after heavy tortures, was hanged by the Turks in Crete in 1793.

*Suffering of Euphrosynus of Blue Jay Lake [Sinozero]*

Born in the country of Karelia, he spent his youth in the Valaam Monastery and after coming of age accepted monasticism in the Tikhvin Dormition Monastery (see Novgorod Diocese). In 1600 he settled as a hermit on the shore of Blue Jay [Sinichiago] Lake.

The glory of his asceticism soon attracted many advocates of desert dwelling, and he founded a cenobitic monastery on the shore of the lake. The Venerable One died as a martyr, killed by the Poles during their plunder of the monastery in 1612. In 1653 his relics were transferred to the Annunciation Church founded by him to the place of their burial under the bell tower.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0116-0117.*

*Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © January 21, 2008; all rights reserved.*