

April 5

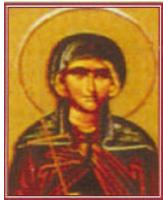
C. Holy Martyrs Reader Theodulus and Deacon Agathopus and those with them

From the clergy of the Salonican church, after harsh torture they were drowned in the sea with stones around their necks (about the year 303). The bodies of the martyrs, cast upon the shore by the waves of the sea, were buried with honor by Christians.

Ven. Publius, monk, practiced asceticism in Egypt in the 4th century.

Ven. Theonas, Simeon and Phorbinus practiced asceticism in the 4th century.

Ven. Theodora of Salonica.



Born on the Island of Aegina, a woman ascetic of a convent in Salonica, through fasting, prayer and obedience she surpassed all the sisters of the convent. Her asceticism so pleased the Lord that after her death (in 879) she did many wonders. Myrrh flowed from her relics.

Ven. Mark of Athens

Born in Athens, after the death of his parents, burning with zealousness for asceticism, he left for the desert in Ethiopia and settled at the foot of Mount Thrahe. The venerable one spent all of 95 years on the treacherous way of desert dwelling. Having neither footwear nor clothes, he suffered much affliction from cold in heat, ate only desert plants and served the Lord in full solitude, not seeing any person, beast or bird. The Lord glorified His ascetic with wonders. On the last day of his life the Elder Serapion came to him, according to a revelation from on high, and who also witnessed the blessed end of Venerable Macarius about the year 400.

Ven. Plato of Studion

The son of glorious and pious parents, after their death remaining in adolescence as an orphan, succeeding in the sciences, labor and abstinence he built up an estate. But then he distributed it to the poor, dismissed his slaves and departed to Mount Olympus in Mysia (now Kasich-Dag). Leading here a strict monastic life, he, by the way, showed special ascetic effort in copying books and drawing up useful collections from the writings of the fathers. Having arrived in Constantinople after the death of Constantine Copronymus, he brought with him a lot of advantage in word and way of life, built up after waves of iconoclastic disturbances. In accord with his humility, he refused the Nicomedian metropolitan

see offered to him by Patriarch Tarasius, and, having left for the wilderness in Symboleon on Mt. Olympus, he founded a monastery in Sakudion. Accused of lawless deeds he was exposed many times to persecution and imprisonment by the emperors. So, for accusation of Emperor Constantine VI, who entered into a new marriage after a lawless divorce, he was imprisoned where he abided until the death of this emperor. During the reign of Emperor Nicephorus he was again imprisoned because he refused to have dialogue with those excommunicated from the church. Ven. Plato participated in the 7th Ecumenical Council. Ven. Plato spent his last years in the Studite Monastery in Constantinople, where he died in the year 814 (see Jan. 26).

Martyr George was beheaded by the sword after torture in New Ephesus in 1801.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0131a.
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