

April 19

C. Our Venerable Father John of the Old Caves

Ven. John, "wounded by divine desire", went "into a strange country", rejected "all the pleasures of the world", and, "having acquired virtues" "and having spent his life in silence", attained "all that is desirable", received "worthily after death".

He practiced asceticism in the 8th century in the monastery of Ven. Charito (in the Succoth wilderness in Palestine), named after the timing of its founding compared with other monasteries whether old or ancient. According to the church hymns he was the priest in this monastery. What is called venerable in these hymns by the hierarch is that, probably, this name is not used in its usual meaning.

St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Antioch in Pisidia

He lived during the reign of Leo the Armenian and courageously stood up for the veneration of the holy icons. The hierarch accused the emperor himself in deviating from church tradition and for this he was sentenced to prison where he died.

Ven. Trypho, Patriarch of Constantinople

Emperor Roman, wishing to turn over the rule of the church to his son Theophylactus, overthrew St. Trypho in 931. And the starets [elder], without resentment, departed to the monastery where he practiced asceticism earlier. He died in peace in 933. His holy relics were placed in the Great Church with the patriarchs.

Martyrs Christopher, Theonas and Antoninus

Warriors and lancers of Emperor Diocletian, seeing the steadfastness of the Holy Great Martyr George, they believed in Christ and after severe torture were put to fire in the year.

Ven. Nicephorus, Hegumen of Catabad Monastery

Born in Constantinople, having distributed the estate to the poor after the death of his parents, he arrived in Chalcedon and here practiced asceticism as a monk in the St. Andrew Monastery. Sent by the abbot to a certain monastery in Phoenicia, he converted many of the unbelieving to Christ and became glorified for wonders. After 33 years of managing the monastery, he died on the way to Chalcedon.

Hieromartyr Paphnutius of Jerusalem

He endured suffering from the sword, wild animals and fire. His relics streamed myrrh and wonders.

Ven. Simeon the Barefooted

Son of a priest, having loved the hermetical life from youth, he practiced asceticism on Mount Olympus. From here the venerable one arrived on Mount Athos, where the brethren of the Philotheou Monastery, observing his strict asceticism, begged him to become their rector. Ven. Simeon directed the monastery in peace, constantly building up the brethren with soul pleasing lectures. Soon hostility arose among the brethren; he left the monastery and settled on Mount Phlamurion. Here a certain apple tree served as his refuge and haven for three years. He constantly went about barefooted, slept on the bare ground and never lit a fire. Such amazing exploits soon attracted many seekers after the ascetical life to him and Ven. Simeon founded the Trinity Monastery for them. Having built it, Ven. Simeon left it and, imitating the apostles, began to go about the cities and settlements to confirm Christians in the rules of true faith and piety. Many troubles came to test the venerable one in this way, but he endured all for the sake of the Lord. The Ven. Simeon died in Constantinople. His body was buried in Chalcis. Within two years his relics were transferred to the Phlamurion Monastery. During this transfer many of the sick received healing. The period of time of the asceticism of this saint is not precisely known.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0142-0143.
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