

April 20

B Our Ven. Father Theodore Trichinas (i.e. the hair shirt wearer)

The son of wealthy parents from Constantinople, he early departed to Thrace and devoted himself to asceticism as a hermit. He went "to the limits of highest Zion" "by a severe and mournful way", was "sober and humble, truly long-suffering and merciful". The venerable one wore only a hair shirt and exhausted the flesh by a strict continual fast. During life and after death he did many wonders. The time of life of Venerable Theodore is placed between the 4th and 9th centuries, but it is not exactly known when.

Kontakion, tone 4

**You were revealed most wonderful in life,
O Wise Father Theodore,
Exchanging the royal treasures of this earth for a hair shirt:
Thereby receiving a heavenly garment,
Ever pray for us, O Venerable One.**

Ven. Anastasius the Sinaite

After a high Christian education and desiring monasticism, he arrived before Ven. John of the Ladder on Mount Sinai. After the death of the latter, he was elected rector. St. Anastasius changeably abided in the monastery: flaming love for pure faith and the salvation of neighbor induced him to travel across Egypt, Arabia and Syria in order to accuse and convert the heretics (Acephalites and other Eutyrians) then active to the true Church. The venerable one died in extreme old age in 686.

Blessed Gregory and Anastasius, Patriarchs of Antioch

A desert-dweller of Mount Sinai, Patriarch of Antioch since 561, St. Anastasius was glorified for flaming zeal in the persecution of Monophysites. According to the intrigues of enemies he was convicted by Justin of wasting church resources and sentenced to prison in 572.

His successor, St. Gregory, Hegumen of the Pharan Laura (not far from Mount Sinai), ruled his flock for 23 years and was distinguished by charity in not remembering evil; accused of debauchery, he was absolved at a council.

After his death in 596, St. Anastasius, who returned to the Antiochian throne, died in peace in 599 or 601

Hieromartyr Anastasius II, Patriarch of Antioch

Successor to Anastasius I, he died, after torture, being beheaded by the Jews in the Church of St. Phocas in 610.

Repose of Ven. Alexander Osheven

In the world Alexis, son of the peasant Nicephorus Osheven, from childhood trained in the letters and distinguished by piety, he refused to marry and at 18 years of age was tonsured in the St. Cyril-Beloozero Monastery. Having improved in spiritual life, Ven. Alexander arrived by the Churiaga River (44 versts [29 miles] from Kargopol, Olonets Province) and founded the Osheven Monastery there (see Olonets Diocese). He himself labored on the settled place for the monastery and inspired in its brethren the preference for love of labor. After 27-years of ascetical labor Ven. Alexander died in peace in 1479. Within a few years his relics were found incorrupt. They repose in a hidden place in the Dormition Church of the monastery founded by him and streamed many wonders. A service was written for Ven. Alexander between the years 1577-1580.

Travail of Gabriel, Six-year old Child

He was born in 1684 in the village of Zverki, Grodno Province of pious Orthodox parents and suffered as a child, being 6 years, by Jewish fanatics. A tenant of the village Zverki, the Jew Shchutko, kidnapped the child in the absence of his parents and took him to a small place, Belii Stok [Bialystok, White Drain]. Here Jewish fanatics crucified St. Gabriel and pierced him with various instruments until they drained all his blood and he died. The body of the child was thrown in a field, but was soon discovered and the Jews received worthy wages. Within 30 years the relics of St. Gabriel were found incorrupt and are now in the Slutsk Monastery (see Minsk Diocese). (See May 9).

St. Betran, Bishop of Lesser Scythia – Dobrudzhi

Emperor Valens, entreating this hierarch to enter into dialogue with the Arians, was refused and he imprisoned the hierarch. The holy bishop was soon returned to his flock and died in peace at the exit of the 4th century. According to the witness of the Scythians, he was a good man and was distinguished by the holiness of his way of life.

Kipiazhsky Icon of the Mother of God

Cypriot Icon of the Mother of God, in the village Stromyni (Moscow Province).

The Mother of God is represented sitting on a throne, but on Her sides are two angels with branches in their hands. Kneeling before the Mother of God are represented St. Patamius and St. Photina the Samaritan Woman. The Cypriot icon is still found in the Moscow Dormition Cathedral.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp 0143-0144.
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