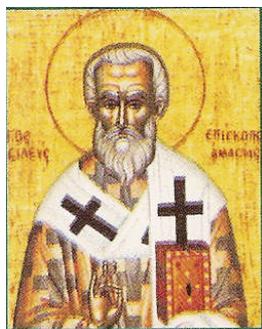


## April 26

### *C. Holy Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea.*



During the persecutions he "very wisely with pastoral boldness" exposed pagan impiety and comforted Christians. With the advent of Arians, he wrote an epistle against them. In 314 he was present at the Councils of Gangra and Neocaesarea. During the reign of Emperor Licinius, in 322, he was ordered to come before the emperor and after the prison bonds he was beheaded by the sword in Nicomedia for sheltering St. Glaphyra at his home. His head and body were cast into the sea and were later found by fishermen in Sinope, from where they were transferred to Amasea, the place of his birth and episcopate.

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**Having defied the decree of the emperor,  
You obtained the Kingdom of Heaven, O Basil:  
Rejoicing there, O Hieromartyr,  
Remember us who honor your memory.**

### *+ Holy Father Stephen, Bishop of Perm*

Born in the city of Ustiug, the son of a clergyman, "having applied himself to virtues from childhood" and possessing unusual intellectual abilities, he learned to read books in one year and helped his father during the worship services in church. According to a special secret desire he began diligently to study the Zyrian language by himself. Apparently, the grace of God rested on him and in inscrutable ways Providence prepared him beforehand for a formidable apostolic ascetic effort. And here, having reached youthful years and not feeling affection for what is temporal, he spent his days reading sacred books and those of the fathers. Thirst for knowledge grew in him more and more, and he went to Rostov to complete his education.

Accepted here as one of the brethren of the Monastery of St. Gregory the Theologian, known from old times for the richness of their library and for the education of monks, St. Stephen, with burning desire for enlightenment, did not concede to anyone even in monastic asceticism, became more and more perfected in the spiritual life. Being the first to appear in church for the divine services and the last to leave, he spent days and nights in fasting, prayer and prostrations, trained in humility, meekness, patience and love, in order to transfer all disappointments and sorrows to the Lord, without harm to the affairs of faith and for the salvation of his soul.

Having prepared himself for missionary work by studying the Holy Scriptures and the Greek language in Rostov, he translated the Holy Gospel into the Zyrian language, and with the blessing of Bishop Gerasimus of Kolomna, went to Little Perm to enlighten the pagan-Zyrians (in 1370 or 1379), "beginning, like a lamb among wolves, to go and preach Christ among the obstinate and depraved". The preacher of the Christian faith has borne much labor, much struggle, much deprivation and much sorrow, "living among unbelieving men, who prayed before idols, fire, water, rocks and gold women and magicians and magi and the tree". The self-denying but dangerous activity of Stephen had a great success.

After he shamed the magus Pam (or Pam the centurion, who was the old man Vymichei, the head pagan priest and chief of the magi), the Zyrians were baptized. And in 1383 Stephen was installed as the bishop of Little Perm. He was "like a true hierarch, quiet and meek", and "a zealous apostle" and an "all-wise teacher".

For the confirmation of the newly converted in the faith Stephen opened schools at the temples to also "teach Permian letters, commanding them to learn the Horologion [Book of Hours], the Osmoglasnik [Music Book of Eight Tones] and the Psalms of David in Permian. In this way he divided the students according to their abilities, so that "some would be appointed priests, others would be deacons"; others also learned to write in Permian. He built churches and put Zyrian priests in them, led the divine services in the Zyrian language, protected the Zyrians from fierce foreigners, petitioned for them in Moscow, supplied them with bread during a poor harvest. In Moscow, he earnestly interceded for them before boyars and leaders saddened about Zyrian privileges and advantages. Many times he delivered them from violence, bailiff bribes and facilitated grants for them. Even the Novgorod boatmen obeyed the words of the venerable one and did not plunder the Zyrians.

According to tradition, the hierarch was not only a preacher of the faith but also an icon-painter. About 17 versts [11.2 miles] from Iarensk in the church in the village of Irtovo is the wonderworking image of the Savior Not Made by Hands, written by Stephen in large dimensions in the ancient Byzantine style.

He died on April 26, 1396 in Moscow where he went on church business. His relics are in a hidden place in the Moscow Kremlin at the Savior in the Pine Forest.

*Troparion, tone 4*

**Having been inflamed with divine desire from a young age,  
O All-wise Stephen,  
You took on the yoke of Christ,  
And having sown the divine seed in people hardened of old in unbelief,  
You spiritually gave birth to them in the Gospel:  
Therefore honoring your most glorious memory let us pray to you:  
Pray to Him, whom you preached,  
That He may save our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 8*

**You were found to be a hierarch to those who did not seek you,  
Having liberated the people from idolatrous delusion,  
You brought them to the Christian faith,  
And you shamed the Magus Pansotnik:  
Therefore you were both the first bishop and teacher of Perm:  
For the sake of your spiritual children,  
For they were delivered from idols by you,  
Thanking you let us cry out:  
Rejoice, O All-wise Teacher Stephen.**

**Paramoea and Ap.:** see January 27. **Matins Gospel:** General for a hierarch.  
**Gospel for Lit:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

**His Synaxis is done where his relics lie and wherever his temple is.**

*Holy Righteous Virgin Glaphyra*

Maidservant to Constantia, the wife of Licinius, pursued by Licinius who was captivated by her, the chaste Glaphyra went to St. Basil, Bishop of Amasea. Sentenced to punishment together with St. Basil by Licinius, she died on the way.

*Ven. Joannicius of Devich*

Born in Dalmatia, settled from youth in a narrow cave on the Ibar River (on the border of Serbia and Bulgaria), he practiced asceticism in it for 70 years and he founded the Devich monastery (on Mount Devich) where he also died at the end of the 13th century. His relics stream myrrh and wonders.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0149-0150.  
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