

May 29

E. Holy Ven. Virgin Martyr Theodosia

After the prayers of her barren mother, she was born in Constantinople and when she was 8 years old she entered the women's Monastery of St. Anastasia. After the death of her parents Ven. Theodosia used the remainder of her inheritance to aid the poor and for the adornment of temples, but as for herself she lived in poverty, abiding in fasting and prayer. When warriors according to an edict of the iconoclastic Patriarch Anastasius wanted to remove the copper icon of the Savior which was over the gates of Constantinople, Ven. Theodosia and other nuns decided to protect the holy things and toppled the ladder placed before the gates with a warrior on it. For this zeal she was subjected to cruel tortures from which she later died in prison in 730.

Troparion, tone 4

**It was your pleasure to achieve virtue, O Martyr,
Becoming a pure dwelling of Christ,
The beloved home of the Holy Spirit;
From where you shamed the enemy
Who warred against the human race,
You suffered well and cut down Copronymus
With the sword of faith, O Theodosia:
And you were presented rejoicing to the heavenly bridal chamber:
Pray that great mercy be given to those who faithfully honor you.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Through the difficulties of life you attained the easy, O Martyr,
With your blood you choked Copronymus,
The defiled enemy of the Church of Christ,
And you rejoice with the warriors on high, O All-blessed Theodosia,
Protecting those who honor your memory.**

† Repose of the Holy and Blessed John, Fool-for-Christ, and Wonderworker of Ustiug

Born in the village of Pukhovo near Ustiug, St. John from his early years was thoughtful and quiet, never participated in the games of his contemporaries and was distinguished by his strict ascetic life: on Wednesdays and Fridays he ate nothing, on other days he ate only bread and water and spent his nights without sleeping in prostrations and prayers. He began his ascetic foolishness from his youth.

Having settled in a hut built for him by the devout Andrew Mishnev near the cathedral in Ustiug, Ven. John spent nights in prayer and during the day walked

about the city as a fool for Christ, "except that his uniform was wearing a torn sackcloth around his waist", rested on manure heaps, underwent beatings as a lamb to the slaughter, endured ridicule and abuse from the people. "Having lived in hunger and thirst and received nothing for this", in a winter of extreme cold he walked barefooted and was hardly covered by his clothing.

Being "righteous and blameless, true and undefiled and faithful, shunning every evil thing", "radiating with piety", "still existing lived", known by many "for the sake of the virtuous way of life" for the man of holy life and for his asceticism he became worthy to receive the gift of clairvoyance from the Lord.

The Holy Church blesses him as a "co-dweller with the bodiless ones glorified in wonders from God, motionless pillar of the church, intercessor for those living in troubles and misfortune in the way of the striding governor, intercessor for the orphan and those disadvantaged, unmercenary doctor for the sick", "comfort for the grieving, healing for the infirm".

The Venerable One died in 1492. His relics repose in a hidden place in a temple named for him in Ustiug.

Troparion, tone 5

**With a naked body you also patiently uncovered the slyness of the enemy,
Accusing him of a different act,
Bitterly vigilant of the scorching heat of the sun,
And the great needs of the December frost,
And you have not sensed the fire,
Protected with the help of God, O All-wise John:
Pray for those who honorably remember you in faith,
And who fervently flow to the shrine of your relics,
To be delivered from troubles and flee from the fall.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**Desiring the most beautiful,
You carefully abandoned the partaking of the baser carnal sweetness,
Disinterested in the vain world,
You loved the angelic way of life,
Having died passing over to them, O Blessed John:
Continually pray with them to Christ God for us all.**

His Synaxis is done in Ustiug.

Paramoia: see May 1. **Epistle and Gospel:** General for a Venerable One.

Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre: see Apr. 3.

Commemoration of the 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea (Refer to May 22).

Alexander, Pope of Alexandria

He was a disciple of St. Peter (see Nov. 25), led the battle against Arius and was one of the main figures at the Ecumenical Council in 325. Burdened with years and cares, he died in 326.

Martyr Nannos [Junior] or John was tortured to death by the Turks in Smyrna in 1802.

Melitene Icon of the Mother of God [Surety of Sinners]. This holy icon appeared in the year 991.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0190-0191.
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