

# JUNE

Izok in Old Slavonic; Cherven in Little Russian<sup>1</sup>

## June 1

### B. *Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher*



Born in Shechem [Neapolis, Sychem] (now Nablus in Samaria), of pagan parents, gifted with rich talents and love for science, St. Justin studied pagan philosophy to completion. It was not in any way true for him. An elder opened the teaching of Christ which Justin found true. Having accepted the Christian faith (at 30 years of age) and being baptized (between 133 - 137), he devoted everything to the glory of the name of Christ, that he had the best of both talent and knowledge, was a fervent preacher of Christianity and opened a Christian school in Rome. "Adorned with wisdom of God", a zealous teacher of the Church, a guardian of its external security on the part of pagans and apologist of Christianity, "the wise Justin" wrote "apologies" to the pagan emperors: Antoninus (in 150) and Marcus Aurelius (about 160). He wrote the "Dialogue with Trypho the Judean". In 166, after prolonged and severe torture, the holy defender of Christians was condemned to death. The relics of St. Justin are in a Capuchin monastery in Rome.

#### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**With the wisdom of your divine words, O Justin,  
The whole church of God is adorned,  
Enlightening the world with the radiance of your way of life:  
You received a crown by pouring out your blood,  
And standing before Christ with the angels,  
Pray unceasingly for us all.**

*Martyr Justin (another) and those with him (Charito, Charita his wife, Euelpistus, Hierax, Pionius and Valerian) suffered together with St. Justin the Philosopher. The names of all these holy martyrs are mentioned in the service for this day.*

#### *† Our Ven. Father Dionysius Hegumen of Glushits*

He was born in Vologda Province and from his young years practiced asceticism as a monk in the Savior on the Rock [Spaso-Kamenny] Monastery on Lake Kubenskoe, Vologda Province. From here, seeking silence, he together with Monk Pachomius passed over to Saint Luke (on the shore of Lake Kubenskoe) and

here reestablished the vacant cenobitic monastery (the parish church of St. Nicholas in Saint Luke is now in that place).

In 1403 he left for the Glushits River, having built here a cenobitic monastery (now closed), and about 4 versts [2.6 miles] from it another monastery named Sosnovets (see Vologda Diocese).

The venerable one led a strict ascetic life, "exhausting his body with fasting and vigils", constantly abiding in prayer and imposing on himself difficult self-examinations.

The holy, strictly ascetical life and spiritual wisdom of the venerable one involved him with many people of all callings and age. Even those skilled in spiritual life came to him and stayed to share monastic labor with him and to be taught by his soul-saving conversations. People looked on him as a shepherd and teacher sent by God for the enlightenment of the country, and they turned to him as a father for physical and spiritual needs. The venerable one was a true father to those seeking his help, for he "enlightened all through faith" and "confirmed the flock" "with a divine staff, with methodical words". Being a feeder of the poor, he generously satisfied all the infirm. The venerable one was a skillful painter, copper smith and clothes maker. Doing everything with his own hands, the venerable one did not spend a minute without labor, and then only accepted food for his labor when he completely lost his strength from exhaustion.

For 7 years up to his death Ven. Dionysius dug a grave for himself in Sosnovets, came to it daily, continually reminding himself about death, and quite often stood over it all night long in the cold, thinking that he could avoid cold pitch darkness. He died in 1437.

He was canonized a saint in the Moscow cathedral and the general Russian celebration was established. The service was written for him in 1546. His relics repose in a hidden place in the Sosnovets monastery.

**Troparion and Kontakion:** see January 10.

**His Synaxis is done in his monastery.**

**Paramoia and Matins Gospel:** see January 10. **Epistle:** Gal. 5:22-26, 6:1-2; sel. 213. **Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

*Ven. Agapitus of the Caves, Unmercenary Doctor*

Born in Kiev, a monk of the Monastery of the Caves, he treated everyone possessed with illnesses without payment, giving them grass to eat, which he also used for food. He died in peace about 1095, knowing the time of his death for 3 months beforehand. His relics repose in St. Anthony's cave. There is a special service with doxology for him.

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<sup>1</sup> *June is named after Junius Brutus, the founder of the Roman republic. Izok means grasshopper [cicada]. It is known that these insects appear in great numbers in June. Cherven comes from the cochineal [kermes] or worm and is a special order of colored worms appearing at this time.*

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp 0192-0193.  
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