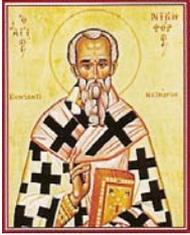


## June 2

### A. *Our Holy Father Nicephorus, Patriarch Confessor of Constantinople*



From a famous family and having received an excellent education, he was secretary at the court of Empress Irene and at the Seventh Ecumenical Council proved himself to be a zealous adherent of iconolatriy. Being weighed down with the vanity of the way of life in the court, St. Nicephorus left the court and led a solitary ascetic life until 806 when he for his virtue was elected patriarch. He wisely managed the church and firmly kept it Orthodox. Leo the Armenian imprisoned St. Nicephorus as a defender of holy icons, but the shepherd of Christ, "valiantly endured exile and animosity", and continued to supervise his flock with true teaching from prison up to his very death. See March 13.

#### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**Since you have received a crown of victory, O Nicephorus,  
From God in heaven, O Most Glorious One,  
As first hierarch of Christ and teacher  
Save those who faithfully honor you,**

† *Holy Great Martyr John the New (Sochi [Sochava]), Tortured in Belgrade.*

The Trebizond merchant while on a ship argued with the captain on faith and so skillfully refuted all his objections that he began to hate him and decided to avenge him with slander. On arrival in Belgrade the vengeful captain slandered St. John that he desired to accept Islam. St. John was arrested and they began to severely torture him: they beat him thorny canes until his insides were exposed. But the holy martyr showed "courageous patience" in suffering for Christ. "Neither the harshness of the torturer, nor beatings with iron, nor dissection of the flesh, nor the flow of blood" could defeat the resolve of the martyr. Finally they tied him to a wild horse and dragged him through the streets of city. At this time a Jew ran up and cut off the head of St. John. His holy relics, glorified with wonderful signs, were decently buried by Christians in Belgrade in about 1340. Within 70 years they were transferred to the city of Sochi [Sochava] (Zhurzha).

#### *Troparion, tone 4*

**Having poisoned the good way of life on earth, O Sufferer,  
Through alms, frequent prayers and tears,  
Again having courageously directed yourself towards suffering,  
You accused the Persian of impiety:  
Therefore you were the foundation of the church and praise of Christians,  
O Ever-memorable John.**

*Kontakion, tone 4*

**Floating through the watery abyss through the font,  
You paid attention from the east to the north:  
But having been called to God like Matthew the Tax Collector,  
You have remained with the font,  
And you followed Him with the blood of martyrdom,  
In time having atoned the impassable,  
And you received the invincible crown.**

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

**Paramoia:** 1) Is. 43:9-14. 2) Wis. 3:1-9. 3) Wis. 4:7-15. **Matins Gospel:** Lk. 21:12-19; sel. 106. **Epistle:** Eph. 6:10-17; sel. 233. **Gospel:** Mt. 10:16-22; sel. 36.

*Martyr Demetrius*

Born of Christian parents in Philadelphia, Asia, in early youth he was kidnapped by the Turks and converted to Islam. When he was 25 years old, St. Demetrius recognized his error and publicly declared himself a Christian, rejecting Islam. In 1657 after severe torture, the Turks cut up St. Demetrius into small pieces. Wonderful healings were accomplished from his relics.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp 0193-0194.  
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