

June 4

F. *Our Father among the Saints Metrophanes, Patriarch of Constantinople.*

"First having destroyed carnal subtleties through abstinence and labor", St. Metrophanes already in extreme old age became patriarch. Being "blameless and honorable" "meek and mild", "all adorned with virtuous brightness", he had the respect of Constantine the Great and received the gift of clairvoyance from the Lord. He ruled the Church for 11 years, "having driven away the heretical regiments with the shield of divine words", and died in 325 at the age of 117. His holy relics repose in a church dedicated to him in Constantinople.

Kontakion, tone 2

**You clearly preached the faith of Christ,
And by keeping it you truly increased your faithful flock to a multitude:
Therefore, O Metrophanes, you rejoice with the angels,
Unceasingly praying to Christ for us all.**

Hieromartyr Astius, Bishop of Dyrrhachium [Durres]

In Macedonia during the reign of Trajan, after severe torture for confession of Christ and first being smeared with honey to subject him to biting flies and hornets, the hierarch was crucified on a cross. After prayers to God the holy sufferer died.

Martyr Concordia

The son of Roman presbyter Gordian, formerly a Subdeacon, he was ordered to sacrifice to idols but refused, and for this, after severe torture, was imprisoned and then beheaded by the sword about the year 175. His relics, placed near Spoleto, Italy, are glorified by many wonders.

Martyr Frontasius, Severin, Severian, and Silana

Sent to evangelize Gaul, they were seized by pagans and after severe torture were beheaded by the sword in the first century.

Ven. Zosimas of Cilicia, Bishop of Babylon in Egypt, 6th century.

The Sinai monk, sent on a monastic assignment to Alexandria and according to a special revelation of God, was installed as Bishop of Babylon on the Nile River. The hierarch was a wise shepherd, setting an example of piety in all. In extreme old age he returned to Sinai where he died.

Repose of Ven. Methodius, Hegumen of Peshnosh

He was a friend, co-faster and converser with Ven. Sergius and was among the first revealed to him in the hermitage. Nothing is known about his parents, time or birthplace. With the blessing of his mentor, Ven. Sergius of Radonezh, he left for the Yakhroma River (Moscow Province, Dmitrov district) seeking silence and here (25 versts [16.5 miles] from Dmitrov) in an oak forest surrounded by bogs, built a kellia for himself for the asceticism of a hermit. His life soon became known and many lovers of the hermit life began to flow to him. Then Ven. Methodius, with blessing of Ven. Sergius, in 1361 founded a cenobitic monastery (see Moscow Diocese) on the Yakhroma River at the confluence of it and the small Peshnosh River (according to the opinion of some, such a word is of Finnish origin because the second letter didn't have a "ieri" but a "ie"). He himself labored at building the temple and cells, according to the story of his life, "carrying on foot" trees through the river and is why beyond the monastery remained forever with the name Peshnosh. After a long and strict monastic asceticism Ven. Methodius died in the monastery in 1392. Our original icon paintings depict him as a profound starets [elder]. On the day of his repose, as evident from the service composed in his honor, many of the people - elders, orphans and widows gathered, - to wail over the death of their provider. His relics are in a hidden place in his monastery. Ven. Methodius was blessed as a saint in Peshnosh from the date of his death, but he is consecrated a saint by the church at the Moscow Council of 1549. Service of Ven. Methodius was completed on a special tablet composed by the Monk Misael. In 1885 the hand-written service was replaced by the printed version and a special Akathistos was composed in honor of the venerable one.

Ven. Sophia was a widow from Thrace. After suffering for Christ, she peacefully died in Byzantium (in the 10th or 11th century).

Ven. John, Hegumen of Monagri, near Cyzicus.

He was drowned in the sea for venerating holy icons, during the reign of Constantine Copronymus.

Ven. Alonius the Egyptian was a contemporary of Ven. Agatho (see Mar. 2) and Pimen the Great (see Aug. 27]. He peacefully died in the 5th century.

Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus

They lived in the settlement of Bethany in Palestine and believed in the Lord even before the raising of their brother. St. Martha is known for anointing the feet of the Lord with precious myrrh (Jn. 22:1-8). After the Ascension of the Lord, the holy sisters helped their brother in the labor of announcing the good news and died peacefully but it is not known where.

Venerable Eleazar and Nazarus, Olonets Wonderworkers

Having come to Russia from Greece, they founded the Forerunner Monastery in the Olonets District. They died peacefully in 15th century. Their relics are in a hidden place in the temple of their abolished monastery.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0195-0196.
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