

June 23

A. *Holy Martyr Agrippina*

She was tortured in Rome during the reign of Emperor Valerian. Her holy relics, by a revelation from above, were transferred from Rome to the island of Sicily, whence about the 11th century they were transferred to Constantinople. Wonderful healings were accomplished from them.

Kontakion, tone 4

**Your light-bearing asceticism draws near with light today,
On which the divine Church honors them,
Summoning all joyfully to cry out to you:
Rejoice, O All-honorable Virgin Martyr Agrippina.**

Meeting of the Immaculate Theotokos, the Wonder-working Vladimir Icon

This feast (with a cross procession in the Moscow Meeting of the Lord Monastery) was established in 1480 in memory of the deliverance of Russia through the intercession of the Mother of God from the Golden Horde Khan Ahmad during the reign of Great Prince Ivan Vasilievich III. This deliverance ended the Tatar yoke hanging over Rus for 2 1/2 centuries (See May 21 and Aug. 26).

Troparion, Kontakion, Paramoea and the rest see May 21.

Martyrs Eustochius, Gaius, (Probius, Lollius) and Urban (see page 653)



St. Eustochius, former pagan priest, was ordained a presbyter after receiving baptism from Bishop Eudoxius of Antioch. In the city of Lystra he baptized his nephew Gaius and all who lived in his house. In the persecution of Maximian in Ancyra [Ankara], Galatia, all of them were subject to terrible tortures and then beheaded by the sword.

Repose of the Holy Righteous Artemius of Verkola

He was born in the village of Verkola on the Pinega River (in the Dvina District) in 1532. Brought up by parents in the awe of God, quiet, gentle, God-fearing, obedient to parents, once when 13 years old going into a field with his father, he was struck by lightning and fell to the ground. The opinion of the simple recognized his death as the judgment of God and left his body unburied in the pine forest. But later the relics of St. Artemius were wonderfully found incorrupt. Healing from them beginning before 1639 spread the glory of St.

Artemius. The local commemoration of his memory was established in 1640 and a service to him was written by the Novgorod Metropolitan Cyprian. In 1645 on the place of the finding of the relics of St. Artemius, a church named after him was built where his relics now repose (see Archangelsk Diocese).

Ven. Joseph

In the world Hilarion, leading a pious life, on June 23, 1588 and having received wonderful vision of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God in a thick forest about 12 versts [about 8 miles] from city of Vologda, he accepted monasticism with the name Joseph. And on the place of his vision of the icon he founded the Vladimir Monastery which received the name Zaonikievskoi (see Vologda Diocese) after the name of the famous Vologda thief Aniki, whose tomb was near the monastery. Given another direction, Ven. Joseph devoted himself to the asceticism of folly for the sake of the Christ during the 25 years up to his death in 1612. His holy relics repose in his monastery.

Zaonikievskoi Icon of the Mother of God

This icon appeared to Ven. Joseph on June 23, 1588 and is in the monastery founded by him (see Vologda Diocese).

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp 0214b-0215.
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