

July 19

c. Our Venerable Mother Macrina, Sister of Basil the Great



The Venerable Macrina was a great righteous and strict virgin. From her youth her education was supervised by her god-fearing mother Emilia, teaching her daughter "from the Wisdom of Solomon and from the Psalms of David and from other books of the Divine Scripture", forcing her to learn by heart such things as prayers and doxologies, which would guide her daughter in life to salvation. Brought up with such strict rules, the Venerable Macrina was betrothed to a groom and would leave her parents. But, by the arrangement of God, her betrothed died prematurely and the Venerable Macrina decided to remain a virgin, although many young noble men sought her hand. After the death of her father, Macrina devoted herself entirely to the education of her sisters and brothers, facilitating the management of the work and efforts of her mother. When both her sisters and brothers grew up and went on their own way, both Macrina and her mother left the world and have become nuns. On the shore of the Iris River in Pontus, they built a monastery through their efforts, in which under the management of Macrina many famous virgins and widows were educated in the rules of piety and were tonsured, consecrating themselves to the Lord. Here the Venerable Macrina spent all her time in prayer, in labor, and in singing of psalms. Her chastity was so great, that, when a growth formed on her chest and it needed an operation, the Venerable Macrina decided not to uncover her body, and refused the operation and fervently prayed to the Lord for healing. Her prayer was heard and the growth disappeared. Even during her life she was granted the ability to work wonders. Her brother, St. Gregory, testifies about her, that "during a famine wheat was not scarce, as she extended her hands out to the needy" and that "for the ill she granted timely healing, cast out demons, foresaw mysteries and foretold the future". The Venerable Macrina died in the year 379.

Kontakion, tone 4

**Venerable Macrina,
You loved the good God with all your heart.
Taking His precious cross upon your shoulder,
You followed after Him with zeal. //
Therefore you have found forgiveness of sins.**

(Text translation: Holy Myrrhbearing Women Monastery)

Our Father the Venerable Dius

Born in Antioch, Syria, he from youth was a hermit. Having settled, on orders from above, in Constantinople, the Venerable Dius founded here a monastery very much by means of and in honor of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger. Installed as the abbot of this monastery, the Venerable Dius continued his spiritual efforts and so has pleased the Lord with them, that he was granted the ability of wonderworking. He died in deep old age about the year 430.

Kontakion, tone 2

**Our Wonderworking Father Dius,
Having divinely armed yourself by purity of soul,
And become strong as a spear by continuous prayer,
You have dispersed regiments of demons: //
Pray unceasingly for all of us.**

The Repose of Roman, Prince of Riazan

The son of Oleg the Red, who was raised among the poor of his native land, kept in himself his love for the holy faith and for his suffering fatherland. Grieving about the oppression of his native land, he with all his powers cared for the welfare of his subjects, protected them from the violence and robbery by the tax collectors of the Khan. This has stirred up their hatred for him and they slandered him before the Tatar Khan Ming-Timur (Tamerlane) in censure of faith of the Khan. The holy prince was called to the horde, where he firmly confessed himself a Christian and for this he was subjected to severe torture: they cut off his tongue, gouged out his eyes, cut off his ears and lips and, finally cut off his head (July 19, 1270). The body of St. Roman was carried away by his compatriots to the city of Riazan and there was given an honorable burial.

*The Repose of the Blessed Stephen Lazarevich, Serbian Ruler, and the
Memory of His Mother Militsa*

He was the son of the Holy Prince Lazarus (Lazar) of Serbia (see June 15). In the hard time of the Turkish yoke St. Stephen was truly a benefactor for the captive country: he rebuilt cities, built temples and spent from his treasury to help the needy. He died in peace on July 19, 1427. The God-fearing Militsa, who was glorified by a quick wit and pious life, after the death of her spouse, founded the monastery of Lubostinja near Krushevatsa, in which she was tonsured as Eugenia. She died on November 11, 1405 as a schema-nun.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p 0248-9
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