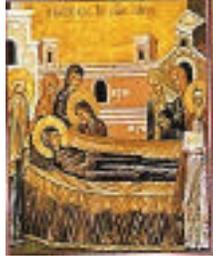


July 25



D. + Dormition of St. Anna, Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos

"Divinely-wise, divinely blessed and blessed" Anna was the daughter of priest Matthan and his wife Maria, from the root of Levi, the tribe of Aaron (Refer to Sept. 8 and 9). According to tradition she died peacefully in Jerusalem at the age of 79 years, before the Annunciation of the Most Holy Virgin Mary. During the reign of Emperor Justinian II her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

Troparion, tone 4

**Having given birth to life,
You carried in your womb the immaculate Mother of God,
O Divinely-wise Anna.
Therefore you were translated to the heavenly reception,
Where the dwelling is of those making glad,
And now rejoicing in glory,
Entreat the cleansing of sins for us, who lovingly honor you,
O Ever-blessed One.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Let us celebrate the memory of the grandparents of Christ,
Faithfully entreating their help
To deliver everyone from every affliction, crying out:
"Our God is with us, glorifying those as it pleases Him".**

Epistle: Gal. 4:22-31; sel. 210 **sel. Gospel:** Lk. 8:16-21; sel. 36.

Holy Women Olympiada (deaconess) and Eupraxia (virgin)

St. Olympiada was the daughter of a famous dignitary in Constantinople. After the death of her husband St. Olympiada devoted

herself to the ascetic effort of truly Christian widowhood. From her rich estate she gave gifts to churches, monasteries, hospices, prisons, places of exile. Through her mercy and compassion she used everything for those poor and deprived whom she saw only. For her virtuous life, she was ordained a deaconess. St. John Chrysostom highly honored her for her charity and wrote her highly instructive letters. She has died in Nicomedia (about the year 410).

About St. Eupraxia, a woman ascetic of Tabenna who died peacefully in 413, see 12 Jan.

The service for Sts. Olympiada and Eupraxia is sung at Compline or whenever the ecclesiarch wishes.

The 165 Holy Fathers of the 5th Ecumenical Council met in Constantinople to come down on Origen and those who said there is no resurrection of the dead. At the 5th Ecumenical Council (in 553) the 165 Holy Fathers confirmed the true teaching laid down by the 4th Ecumenical Council, and denounced the Three Chapters, i.e. the works of Theodore of Mopsuestia, teacher of Nestorianism, the writings of Theodoret of Cyrus against St. Cyril and the letter of Ibas of Edessa to Mary the Persian, favoring the Nestorians. The Council also at this time denounced much of the reception of the errors of Origen and the heretics, who said that there is no resurrection of the dead (for details see Concerning the Councils).

+ Our Ven. Father Macarius of Zheltovodsk, Wonderworker of Unzha

Born in Nizhni-Novgorod, he "in a severe and regrettable way from childhood" went to the heavenly kingdom. Being 12 years old, he secretly left the home of his parents and accepted tonsure in the Nizhni-Novgorod Hermitage of the Caves. Here, continually "praising God in prayers", the Ven. Macarius was zealously devoted to the efforts of salvation. The strictest fast and the most precise performance of the monastic rule distinguished him before all the brothers.

Only after three years the parents of the Ven. Macarius learned where he disappeared. His father came to him and tearfully begged his son if only he would come to see him. Talking to his father from behind a wall, and not seeing him, Macarius answered his request by saying that he will meet him in the life to come. "At least stretch out your hand to me", the father asked. The son complied with this small request, and the father, having kissed the extended hand of his son stretching out through the window, returned home.

"Fleeing the world" and weighed down with the glory of his ascetic efforts, the humble Macarius left the monastery of the caves on the shore of the River Volga "and having settled himself in the hermitage", struggling ascetically there in one cave. Here he "fervently" endured "the desert animosity", reflecting "regiments of demons" and "dark temptations", "with firm abstinence and strong patience". Zealots of piety gathered around him, and he built a monastery in the name of the Holy Trinity for them, named for Zheltovodsk (near Lake Zheltyie Vody [Yellow Water]). Here he preached Christ to the neighboring Cheremisi (Finnish) and Chuvash tribes.

After the destruction of the monastery in 1439 by the Kazan Tartars, the Ven. Macarius with his brothers and many inhabitants of that district moved to the country of Galicia. During this resettlement after the prayers of Ven. Macarius all accompanying him were nourished with a wonderful image. Having settled on the shore of Lake Unzha, he founded here the Unzha Monastery (see Kostroma Diocese), in which he died in 1444. His relics, uncovered in 1620, repose in a hidden place in the Unzha Monastery. They have become glorified for many healings.

Troparion, tone 5

**Today your city of Galich is praised by you.
For in the end you shone as the great sun enlightening it,
And by your wonders, O Venerable Macarius,
You have illumined everything.
And now pray to the Lord to save our souls
From the temptation of the enemy,
And to save your city from Polish influence.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**You were revealed as the second Moses, O Venerable One.
For he divided the sea with a staff,
You have conquered the passions like Amalek,
And you passed through the impassable wilderness with an unwavering mind,
And in it you performed great wonders through your prayers.
You abundantly fed the hungry people.
And now pray to the Lord to grant comfort to all who sorrow.
O Ever-memorable Father Macarius,
All those in the country of Galicia and in the Russian land
Offer praise and confirmation.**

His Synaxis is completed in his Monastery and in his temple. Paramoea and so forth see July 5 for the Ven. Sergius.

Martyrs Sactus (Sanctus), Maturus, Attalus and Blandina, suffered severely for their faith in Christ in Lyons during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year 177.

Ven. Christopher

Disciple of the Ven. Longinus, he was the founder of the St. Christopher Theotokos Hermitage 27 versts (about 18 miles) from Solvychegodsk, Vologda Province (in the 16th century). An icon of the Mother of God Hodigitria was brought to him there, which up to now attracts most of the pilgrims to the former monastery now parish temple, especially on the 9th Friday after Pascha, on July 28 and Sept. 8.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0255-0256
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D Tarris © 7/14/05. All rights reserved.*