

August 22

D. Holy Martyr Agathonicus and those with him

Holy Martyr Agathonicus, Zoticus, Theoprepius, Acindynus, Severian and others, suffered during the reign of Maximinian. St. Agathonicus, descended from a notable family, and converted a chief of the senate to Christ, together with other Christians were tortured in Byzantium. St. Zoticus with his disciples were killed in place called Carpe. Sts. Theoprepius and Acindynus suffered in Potamon, Thrace, and St. Severian near Chalcedon. In the service only Martyr Agathonicus is glorified _).

Kontakion, tone 1

**Heeding the good call, O Divinely-wise One,
You renounced the beliefs of evil men,
Not being afraid of torment, O Glorious Agathonicus.
Therefore, you became an heir of blessings, //
And you, together with them that suffered with you, received worthy crowns.**

The service to St. Lupus is sung on this day.

Virgin Martyr Eulalia suffered for her faith in Christ during the reign of Diocletian in about the year 303. She lived near Barcenona (today Barcelona, Spain) and, having heard about the persecution of Christians, secretly left her parent's house for the city. There she strongly confessed her faith in Christ before the hegemon, despite her 14 years. On the order of the latter, they began to beat the virgin with rods, and during the torture the hegemon tried to convince the virgin martyr to spare her youth and beauty. But the holy virgin remained unbowed. Then they bound her to a cross and lit torches until she gave up her soul to God in the form of a white dove which emerged from her mouth and flew up to heaven. Searching for their missing daughter, her parents finally found her. They also cried, regretting her youth, and together were pleased that their daughter received a martyr's crown. Christians obtained the remains of the holy virgin martyr and turned them over for Christian burial.

Ven. Anthusa, Hieromartyr Bishop Athanasius, Martyrs Charesimus and Neophytus

St. Anthusa was born in Seleucia of rich and notable pagan parents. Secretly from her parents she accepted holy baptism from Bishop Athanasius, left for the desert and there practiced asceticism for 23 years, hidden from everybody, and died in peace. St. Athanasius, former bishop of Tarsus, Cilicia, was beheaded for his faith in Christ during the reign of Emperor Aurelius. The same martyr's crown was received by Charesimus and Neophytus, servants of St. Anthusa, who were baptized together with their lady.

Celebration of the Georgian Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

During the reign of Tsar Michael Fedorovich one of the Yaroslavl merchants bought in Persia an icon of the Mother of God written in Georgia, and, brought it to Russia, on command from above, sent it as a gift to the Krasnogor Monastery, Archangel Province. In this monastery the holy icon became famous for working many wonders. The celebration of it was established in 1650. Rather honored lists of the wonder-working Georgian icon of Mother of God are in Moscow, in the Church of the Trinity, near the Barbarian gate, and in the St. Rhais Monastery, Kazan diocese.

_) It is believed that on this day the werewolf passes from the forest to the barns and here scatters grain combined in sheaves. Precautions are taken against the werewolf: a mysterious circle is drawn around oneself and the sheepskin coat is put on turned out on the wrong side, some owners sit down in corners of their sheds hoping to frighten off the werewolf. It is the duty of the pastor to eradicate similar sorts of absurd superstitions.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0294
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