

# August 30

*C. Our Fathers among the Saints, Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexander, John, and Paul the New.*



St. Alexander was at first a priest, and after the death of Bishop Metrophanes he stepped up to the Constantinopolitan throne in the year 325. While managing the Church for 30 years, he proved to be a zealous defender of Orthodoxy against the attacks of the Arian and pagan philosophers. Once in a dispute with a philosopher, Alexander, who was not learned in philosophical science, after a long and vain argument, decided to silence the philosopher in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and became a philosopher with him. But when the philosopher repented his error, he recognized the correctness of the faith in Christ and fell down before the feet of the Patriarch, that he was resolved and with many others believed in Jesus Christ. After Alexander's prayer the Lord even punished Arius. This heretic falsely agreed to enter into dialogue with the Orthodox, but Alexander did not agree to accept him. Meanwhile the Emperor Constantine also insisted that Arius should enter into dialogue with the Orthodox. All night long Alexander fervently prayed that the Lord not admit the heretic to this dialogue or that he would take his soul. As the morning began Arius solemnly went into the church. But here an attack befell him, his insides were struck with illness, his belly was cut open and exposed. The Hierarch Alexander died in the year 340.

St. John was glorified for his fasting, his generosity to the poor and working wonders (see Sept. 2).

St. Paul was installed as patriarch in the year 780. Grieving over the spread of heresy, he voluntarily resigned his position and died as a Schema-monk in the year 784.

*Kontakion, tone 8*

**Crucified by the love of Christ, O glorious Ones,  
And accepting His yoke you revealed yourselves followers  
In His footsteps by your way of life,**

**And you became participants of His Divine Glory,  
O Divinely wise Alexander, with the wonderful John and the glorious Paul.  
As you stand before His throne, earnestly pray for our souls.**

**Translation of the Relics of the Holy Faithful Prince Alexander Nevsky** from the city of Vladimir to St. Petersburg in the year 1724. See November 23.

**Matins Gospel:** See Mar. 2. **Epistle and Gospel at the Liturgy** See Apr. 1.

+ **Rest of Ven. Alexander of Svir.** The Ven. Alexander, (in the world Amos) was born in 1448, within the boundaries of Great Novgorod, in a small area of the Obonesh fifth, the village of Mandera, into a family of the modest laborers, distinguished by a truly Christian life. Since his youth divine grace rested on him. He was a stranger to pleasures and entertainment, idleness and everyday troubles, far from everything worldly and burned with a desire to leave the vain world. Visiting the temple of God, reading the divine scripture, praying during the wearisome fast is how this modest young man lived. When he reached full manhood "his parents wished to arrange a lawful marriage for him, but the divine youth was averse to this, ever heedful to flee from all the pleasures of this world". After fervent prayer, being 26 years old, he secretly left his parental home and accepted tonsure in the Valaam Monastery, where for 13 years he spent in severe asceticism of fasting, prayer and monastic obedience. After this, according to a suggestion from above, he left for the shore of the Svir River, where after 7 lonely years of asceticism he founded a monastery in the name of the Holy Trinity in 1510. Installed as the Hegumen of the monastery, he tried to be "the least among the brethren", "to be the paradigm of humility": "doing less for himself than for all, and serving all, and presenting a paradigm by his life for all, and proceeding to do things on behalf of all. He was the first to be found in church and the last of all to leave. And none ever saw him lying on a rug. His clothes were simple, crude and much patched". In general, the Ven. Alexander worked so very much for the Lord, caring unceasingly about the salvation for the flock orally entrusted to him that it is also difficult to describe and estimate all that Ven. Alexander accomplished for the advantage and glory of the monastery built by him. The one whom the Lord glorified with the gift of wonderworking while still alive, that venerable one was worthy to contemplate Him in a wonderful vision shortly before his death. After this inexplicable mercy of the Almighty, he was also

worthy to contemplate the Mother of God in a strange vision. The venerable one did not live long after his wonderful visions. "Having understood his immanent departure to God", he gathered the brethren, "to instruct them about love and submission to one another, and about other virtues". And soon peacefully he honored the Lord on the 30th day of August 1533, having reached "an honorable and great old age with much grey hair". "With great lamentation" the brethren carried the industrious Hegumen to his grave, and they buried his honorable body in the Church of the Transfiguration, "at the right side of the altar". In 1641 his relics were found incorruptible and now repose openly in the monastery (see Olonets Diocese). The universal commemoration of St. Alexander was established since 1547. In the church hymns Ven. Alexander is glorified, as "a paradigm of virtue for all monastics", "an adornment of fasters", "the trainer of those who have strayed, the deliverer of captives", "comfort to all desponding in grief", "healer of all who ail", "a source of miracles, an unashamed prayer book to God", and "a great adornment to his fatherland".

*Troparion, tone 4*

**From your youth, O Divinely-wise One,  
With spiritual desire you settled in the wilderness,  
And fervently desired to walk alone in the footsteps of Christ.  
Therefore even the angelic choirs beholding you were astonished  
At how you practiced asceticism with the flesh  
Against the invisible wiles, O Most Wise One.  
You defeated legions of passions through abstinence,  
And you were revealed equal to the angels on earth.  
O Venerable Alexander, ask Christ God to save our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 8*

**As a brilliant star, you shone today in the Russian lands, O Father,  
Having settled in the wilderness,  
You desired to fervently walk in the footsteps of Christ,  
And taking His holy yoke, the honorable cross on your shoulder,  
You conquered through your ascetic labors, bodily leaping for joy.  
Therefore let us hymn you:  
Save your gathered flock, O Wise One,  
That we may call out to you:  
Rejoice, O Venerable Alexander our father.**

**Paramoea, Matins Gospel and Epistle** see Aug. 2. **Gospel for the Lit.** Luke 6:17-23; sel. 24.

**His synaxis is done in his monastery.**

*Ven. Christopher*

A Roman by birth, he practiced asceticism as a monk in the St. Theodosius Monastery in Palestine in the Sixth century. Spending 11 years here in strict asceticism, he, following a past vision, left for Mount Sinai and there spent 50 years in fasting and prayer. He died in extreme old age in the St. Theodosius Monastery.

*Ven. Fantinus*

Born in Calabria, from his youth he served the Lord as a monk at first in his fatherland, then in the city of Larissa in Thessaly and, finally, in Salonica where he died at the end of the Ninth or the beginning of the Tenth century.

*Finding of the relics of the Faithful Prince Daniel of Moscow* in 1652. His relics repose in the Moscow St. Daniel Monastery. See March 4.

*Commemoration of the Conclusion of Peace between the Russian Emperor and the Swedish King*

On August 30, 1721 the Nystadt Treaty ended the long war between Russia and Sweden, guaranteed for Russia possession of the Baltic Sea Coast and raised her to be a recognized power among the great European states. In the August Monthly Menaion is found "a Service of Thanksgiving to God, glorifying the Holy Trinity" as a commemoration of this Treaty. This service, according to the Menaion, is performed together with services to the Holy Faithful Prince Alexander Nevsky celebrated on this day. For the commemoration of the treaty are a special Troparion, Kontakion, Magnification, Stichera, Canon, Paramoea, Epistle, Gospel and so forth. Hymns "for the commemoration" of the peace are penetrated with feelings of deep patriotism and has a direct connection to that time, that even Emperor Peter, mentioned in some of them, is represented as still living. In the Typicon (Ustav) of 1885, and equally in the Synodal Menologies of 1863 and 1891 this commemoration is not specified.

Serbian Hierarchs and Teachers of Archbishops: *Sabbas I, Arsenius I, Sabbas II, Eustathius I, James, Nicodemus, Daniel*, Patriarchs: *Joannicius*

*II, Ephraim II, Spyridon, Macarius, Gabriel I and Gregory, Bishop of Serbia.*

About Sabbas I see January 12, Arsenius I see October 28, Sabbas II see February 8, Eustathius II see January 4, Ephraim II see June 15, Nicodemus see May 11 and Daniel see December 20.

The blessed Joannicius, first patriarch of Serbia, originally directed the Serbian Church from 1339 to 1346 as archbishop, and then in 1346 he was installed as patriarch. He crowned King Dushan with the imperial wreath. He died in 1349. His relics are the Pech monastery.

The Blessed Spyridon, third patriarch of Serbia, and his successor Blessed Ephraim, died in 1388. For composing spiritual hymns he was called a "spiritual singer". His relics are in the temple of the Pech Monastery.

St. James was installed as the Archbishop of Serbia in 1286 and directed the Church for 6 years. The church reveres St. James as the nourisher of orphans and widows, a comforter to the sorrowing, a help to those running to him and a warm intercessor. He died in 1292.

St. Macarius died in 1574. He very much cared for the spread of education in Serbia. During his reign in Serbia church books were printed.

Holy Patriarch Gabriel was born into the noble Raich family. In 1655 together with the Patriarch of Antioch he was present at the Council in Russia, convened by Tsar Alexei Michailovich for deciding the question of correcting the liturgical books. Having received in Russia generous alms for Serbia, which at that time was suffering distress, St. Gabriel returned to his country. But here he was accused of high treason and for his unwillingness to accept the Moslem faith he died in 1659 as a martyr.

St. Gregory, Bishop of Serbia, was born into the Nemanja family. His relics repose in the Kumants Monastery on the Lim River.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0303-0306  
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D Tarris © August 8, 2005. All rights reserved.*