

September 2.

g. Holy Martyr Mamas



The son of the famous parents Saints Theodotus and Rufina, he was born in the prison in Caesarea, where his parents died for their faith in Christ. The Lord did not leave the child without help or oversight. One rich and pious widow took in the orphan, named him Mamas and brought him up as her own son. While yet a youth he showed zealousness for the faith, resulting in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as his friend in school. When he lived in the desert, wild goats came to him. He milked them, prepared cheese, sold it and distributed the money to the needy. When he was 15 years old St. Mamas underwent tortures and torments because he believed in Christ. He was ripped by iron, thrown into a heated furnace, was turned over to be torn apart by beasts, and thrown into the sea. But through all these torments the Lord protected St. Mamas and he "enduring the severest ascetical feats" remained unharmed. Finally, a pagan priest stabbed him in the belly with a trident from which the holy martyr died (in the year 275).

Kontakion, tone 3

**Lead your people with the staff God gave to you,
Holy Mamas, as a flock to life-giving pastures;
Crush the invisible and fierce enemies
Beneath the feet of those who hymn you; //
For all those in danger have received you as their fervent intercessor.**

Our Venerable Father John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople

St. John under the assumptions of his parents should have become a simple handicraftsman. But the young man was disposed to the monastic life and because of his morally good life he was ordained a deacon. Being among the church clergy, he was worthy of a vision that served this sign to St. John that he will be the shameless recipient of the grace of God of prayerful reinforcement and spiritual

enlightenment for the hungry and the thirsty. Within a short time St. John was elected Archbishop of Constantinople. Throughout his episcopacy he did not abandon that life view that for the most part was proper chiefly to the strictest desert ascetics and as a result he received the name 'faster'. By the example of his life he very strongly taught all believers to restrain capricious wants and to be able to control themselves. The hierarch could not with equanimity view the clear disregard in his flock for the institutions of the church. When the inhabitants of Constantinople decided to give in to their passions by attending a horse show in the hippodrome on eve of the feast of Pentecost, the hierarch fell on his knees before God and fervently prayed that the Lord destroy the impious intention of his flock. And, as soon as the inhabitants were on their way to the hippodrome, a terrible storm with thunder, rain and hailstones suddenly came up so that all dispersed in fear and should understand the reprehensibility of the untimely entertainment. Distinguished "by abstinence and unfailing prayer", St. John had such love for the poor, that nothing was refused them from his estate, so that after his death he had nothing except some old clothes. During his life he performed many miracles and shone "in the world of piety with light", and was glorified, in the words of a church writer or in the expression of the Church, "as the guide of pious doctrines and the speaker of wise words". He died in the year 595. His memory is also celebrated on August 30.

Epistle: Rom. 8:28-39; sel. 99. **Gospel:** John 15:1-7; sel. 50.

The 3618 Martyrs, suffered for Christ in Nicomedia during the reign of Diocletian and Maximian. According to the "*Miesiats. Vost.*" it is more than probable that they are one and the same martyrs as the 1003 martyred in Nicomedia commemorated on February 7.

Eleazar. He was the second high priest of Israel, the son of Aaron the high priest of Israel,. During his time Moses made a census of the Hebrew people according to the command of God. After gaining the promised land, St. Eleazar together with Joshua, son of Nun, participated in dividing the land among the tribes the Israelites and then lived in Shiloh, where there was a tabernacle. He died after Joshua, son of Nun, and was buried in Gibeah.

The Kaluga Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

This holy icon appeared in 1748 in the village of Tinkov, 7 versts (4.7 miles) from Kaluga, in the house of the boyar Khitrov, and itself represents an awesome picturesque image and tender face, similar to a nun reading her rule according to

the book. Because of various miracles the icon soon became known that this is the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, and then it was transferred with honor from the house of the boyar to the church of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Kaluga where it now is found and is there to this time. The feast to the icon on this day was established in memory of deliverance of Kaluga, with the help of the Mother of God, from the epidemic of the plague in 1771. The exact data about this icon is in the cathedral in the city of Kaluga where the feast is celebrated on October 12 in memory of the deliverance from the French in 1812.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0310-0311
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