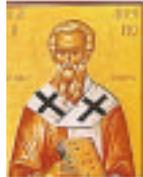


September 3

f. Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him: Martyrs Deacon Theophilus, Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes, Gorgonius, Zeno, the virgin Domna and Euthymius, who suffered for Christ during the reign of Diocletian in the year 302)



St. Anthimus ruled the Church during the most severe persecution of Christians under Diocletian. For the welfare of his flock he often hid in the village of Semana not far from Nicomedia and from there wrote letters to imprisoned Christians, inspiring them to the martyr's ascetic effort. Finally the persecutors of the Christians found out about the residence of the bishop and sent warriors to seize him. In the village the warriors casually met Anthimus himself and began asking him where the bishop of the Christians hides. Promising the warriors to name the place where the bishop could be found, Anthimus invited them to his home, hospitably treated them and then revealed himself to the warriors. Touched by the good will of the old man, his kindness and courage, the confused warriors began to convince Anthimus to disappear, promising him to tell the persecutors that they could not find his residence. But the old man, a strict Christian, considered this offer of the pagan warriors. Pointing out to them how sinful it was to act against the truth and how dishonest it was for them, the warriors, to propose deceit in the performance of their duty, he calmed them in that they were not guilty in the performance of the order assigned them even if illegal, and he courageously followed them. And by his goodness the Holy Elder did not cease teaching the warriors and so directed their hearts to themselves and the Christian faith that the warriors, coming upon the way to a river, immediately wanted to be baptized. Having voluntarily turned himself back into the hands of the enemies, St. Anthimus after terrible tortures, accompanied by wonderful signs, was beheaded. Deacon Theophilus, after his ears were cut off, was stoned to death; Dorotheus was beheaded; Mardonius was burned; Migdonius was buried alive; Peter, Indes and Gorgonius were drowned in the sea. All these martyrs were lords and courtiers. Zeno the warrior was beheaded. Domna the Virgin, from an offerer to the pagan deities became a zealous Christian for the burial of the bodies of these martyrs, and

Euthymius for his confession of Christ also underwent executions. See December 28.

Kontakion, tone 4

**You lived honorably in the priesthood,
And trod the path of martyrdom.
You extinguished the service to idols,
Being the defender of your flock,
O Wise One of God:
Therefore we now honor you and mystically hymn you:
Deliver us from calamity through your prayers,
Ever-memorable Anthimus.**

Epistle: Heb. 13:7-16; sel. 334. **Gospel:** John 10:9-16, sel. 36.

Our Venerable Father Theoctistus, Fellow Ascetic of Euthymius the Great

The Venerable Theoctistus, according to the Canon, is "the most respectable pastor", and first was tonsured together with the Venerable Euthymius in a cave, but later became the head of the monastery built by the Venerable Euthymius near Jerusalem. He died in the year 467.

Troparion, tone 8 (Common)

**With the streams of your tears you cultivated the barren desert, /
And with your deep groans your made your toils bring forth fruit a hundredfold, /
And you have become a beacon, shining in all the world by your wonders: //
Venerable Father Theoctistus, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.**

(Text translation: © Archimandrite Ephrem)

Martyr Aristion, Bishop of Alexandria, died by fire for his faith in Christ in Third Century.

Martyr Basilissa

Born in Nicomedia, she being 9 years old suffered for her faith in Christ. When they led her to the Hegemon of Nicomedia Alexander, she fearlessly proclaimed that she believes in Jesus Christ and he began tenderly to advise her to reject her faith and to worship idols. But the child Basilissa continued to glorify the Most High and firmly proclaimed to the Hegemon that she will remain a Christian. All marveled at the intelligence and firmness, with which she gave her answers.

The Hegemon ordered that she be beaten, hoping to get her to bow in denial; but she in a loud voice thanked God. Then the governor, getting angry again, ordered to increase the torture. The young confessor first was hanged over the fire, and then was thrown into a burning furnace and finally was turned over to wild beasts. Finally the Hegemon became wiser at the wonderful sign of the power of God. Seeing that with all the torments, St. Basilissa remained unmoved he understood that the Lord is All Mighty, and exclaimed: "This is the work of God!" Falling to the feet of Basilissa, he said to her: "have mercy on me, for the sake of the heavenly King and God, and forgive that I have done this evil to you. Pray to God for me, for from now on I believe in Him!" The Holy Martyr was delighted and began in a loud voice to glorify and to thank God for His mercy. Having appealed to the bishop who instructed and catechized him, Alexander accepted holy baptism and carried out the rest of his life in Christian piety. St. Basilissa died peacefully at a young age (in the year 309).

St. Phoebe, deaconess of the church at Cenchreae (in Corinth), died in the first century. She is mentioned by Apostle Paul in Romans 16: 1-2.

Martyr Polydoros, from the city of Lefkosia on the island of Cyprus. For his conversion from Mohammedism to Christianity, the Turks hanged him after severely torturing him in New Ephesus in 1794. Many miracles were performed from his relics.

Repose of the Blessed John the Hairy One. The Blessed John was tonsured in the city of Rostov as a fool for Christ, suffering needs and sorrows. Having been accomplished in the spiritual life, he also gave a lot of soul-saving advice to many others. After long ascetic efforts he died in 1580 and was buried behind the altar of the St. Blaise church. Many beneficial healings were performed on his sepulcher. In the manuscripts there exists a service to him.

St. Joannicius, Archbishop and First Patriarch of Serbia. See August 30.

The Pisidia Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. This holy icon was in Sizopolis, Pisidia (in Asia Minor) and in it myrrh is depicted flowing out of her hand, as the Patriarch Germanus (715 - 730) mentions in one of his letters. The old diptych with it is in Moscow in the Novo - Spassky Monastery.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0311-0313
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