

September 4.

E. Holy Hieromartyr Babylus, Bishop of the Great Antioch (and with him 3 children: Urban, Prilidian, Hippolonius, and their mother Christodula, who suffered for Christ during the reign of Decius in the year 251).

St. Babylus was the bishop of Antioch during the persecution of Decius. Once Decius decided to enter a Christian temple to defile it. Leading the service in the temple at this time, Bishop Babylus resolutely opposed the entrance of a persecutor of Christians into the temple. In view of the great number of Christians praying in the temple, Decius was afraid to insist and returned home. On another day he ordered the temple to be burned, and the impudent bishop to come before him. After vain efforts to force the bishop to bow to pagan deities, the emperor decided to torture the bishop. Between that and his arrest Babylus learned that three brothers, his disciples, Urban, Prilidian and Hippolonius also came to the court. To the question of the emperor: "whose children are these", Babylus "standing before his persecutor" courageously answered: "mine in spirit". Knowing that the children had a mother, the emperor ordered her to come before the court. In the court Christodula explained to the emperor that she entrusted her children to the bishop that he would care for the salvation of their souls. The king ordered the mother to be flogged for such an answer, and the children began to cry, and, seeing their disobedience, he ordered them together with the bishop to be burned by fire. After severe torture, the bishop and the three children were beheaded, and the mother was released and died in peace.

Kontakion, tone 8

**O glorious Babylus,
Blessed with the piety of a preacher, and the support of sufferers,
Today the church glorifies you.
But, O Long-suffering One,
Confident before the Lord, and perfected in the world, //
We pray magnifying and praising you that you ask Christ to protect us.**

Epistle: Heb. 11:33-40; sel. 330. **Gospel:** Luke 12:32-40; sel. 67.

The Holy Prophet and God-Seer Moses

He was the great leader and lawgiver of the Israelites. He was born in Egypt and descended from the root of Levi (see Exodus. 2: 2-10). God testified about him: "the man Moses was very meek, more than all the men that were on the face of the earth" (Num. 12: 3). He wonderfully led the Hebrews out of Egypt, having

delivered them from Egyptian slavery. On Mount Sinai he received the Ten Commandments from God and was granted to see the glory of God, "As much as a man was able to see". He wrote down all the received commandments and their establishment, and no less than the beginning history of the Hebrew people in the first five books of the Bible. He died on the border of the Promised Land, being 120 years old (in 1531 B.C.), "but no man knows the place of his burial to this day" (Deut. 34:6).

Troparion, tone 2

**The memory of Your prophet Moses,
We celebrate today, O Lord.
By his prayers, we beseech You, //
Christ God, to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**The prophetic choir with Moses and Aaron are most glad today,
For the end of their prophecies is fulfilled for us.
Today the cross shines, for You have saved us. //
Through their prayers, Christ God, have mercy on us.**

*Martyr Babylus of Nicomedia and the 84 Children with him, who suffered in
Nicomedia under Emperor Maximian*

St. Babylus was the guide of the children, whom he taught the knowledge of the true God. For his confession of Christ he was beheaded. All his students received the same crown of martyrdom. They were buried in Byzantium. The names of two of the children are Ammonius and Donatus.

Martyrs Theodore, Ammianus, Julian and Oceanus

Born in the village of Quandabla, for their confession of the Christian faith they were chopped into pieces after they were tortured and burnt in Nicomedia during the reign of the Emperor Maximian Galerius.

Holy Martyr Hermionia



Holy Martyr Hermionia was one of the daughters of the Deacon St. Philip (see October 11), and suffered for Christ during the reign of the Emperors Trajan and Adrian. Knowing the medical arts, she without charge medically treated many of the faithful and healed the sick in the name of Christ. She died in the year 117 and was buried in Ephesus. Healing myrrh poured out of her relics.

Celebration of the Image of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Unburned Bush

This wonderworking icon is in Moscow, in the Church of the Unburned Bush, close to the Dievichiago Field. There is a special service to this icon in manuscript with the title: "This service is sung on the Holy Mount Sinai, whenever someone wants it and whenever there is a terrible thunderstorm". Now this celebration is established in the memory of Moses the prophet who was worthy in the burning and unburned bush to foresee the salvation of the human race by the Son of God, who was incarnate unburned from the Most Holy Virgin and is kept whole in her ever-virginity. "As the bush burns and is not burned, so the Virgin gave birth to Thee", sings the Holy Church (Dogmatic tone 2) 1). The depiction of the Mother of God of the Unburned Bush shows an eight pointed star made from two sharp four pointed stars with concave ends, from which one is red (fiery) reminding one of fire, as embraced in the Moses vision of the bush; the other is of green color indicating the natural color of the bush, which it protected, being embraced by a fiery flame. The Most Holy Virgin with the Eternal Child is represented in the middle of the eight-pointed star, as if in the bush. On the corners of the red four cornered star are represented: the man, the lion, the calf and the eagle, seen as signs of the special features of the four Evangelists about the life and teaching of that Divine and Immaterial Fire, Which unburned was accepted in the womb of the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

The Venerable Petronius who was the disciple of the Venerable Pachomius the Great died in the year 349.

Notes:

- 1) On this basis there also was a belief that the Mother of God Herself was unburned from the fire of God, and saves from material fire as from lightning and fire. Therefore a custom spread among simple people is to go with a circle of fire with the Icon of the Unburned Bush for the extinguishing of fires.