

September 10

f. Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora, who suffered for Christ in Bethany, during the reign of Maximinian Galerius (305-311)



Born sisters, who were unusually distinguished by their beauty, practiced asceticism on a certain deserted mountain. Discovered here during the persecution, they were subjected to severe tortures: "your limbs were dismembered and thrown on the fire, and torn by iron hooks, and hanged on a tree, and beheaded by the sword". Protected by "the weapon of faith", the Holy Women Martyrs did not deny Christ, and during the torture turned over their spirit to their God.

Kontakion, tone 4

**Invincible in your struggles for the Holy Trinity,
And through your love for each other as sisters.
You defeated the foe of your spiritual life,
And with the five virgins, entered victoriously into the heavenly mansions //
Where you ever rejoice with the angels in the presence of the King of all.**

(Text tr. Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Monastery)

Martyr Barypsabas, who lived in the Second Century.

There is a legend, that during the suffering of the Savior on the Cross, a certain Jacob received the blood and water flowing from the side of the Savior in a bowl (tikva) and kept this holy relic for himself. As if he didn't know, he poured olive oil over the blood in the bowl, and through the olive oil performed many healings. After the death of Jacob, this holy relic passed to two desert-dwellers, and on their death to Barypsabas. Adding olive oil to the blood of Christ, Barypsabas performed many healings. Evil people from self-interest killed the holy desert-dweller, took the bowl, but did not find in it what they expected.

Ss. Peter and Paul, Bishops of Nicaea.

St. Peter was a zealous defender of Orthodoxy during the reign of Emperor Leo the Iconoclast. In the service for him he is called confessor and martyr. He died in about 823. Information about St. Paul was not preserved.

St. Pulcheria, Greek Empress

Pulcheria was the wife of Emperor Marcian, the daughter of Emperor Arcadius and governed the state during the early childhood of the brother of the Emperor Theodosius the 2nd. After the death of the brother, she entered into marriage with Marcian and led a pious life and very much looked after the protection of Orthodoxy and suppression of heretics. She died in 453.

The Synaxis of the Holy Apostles Apelles, Lucius, and Clement of the 70

St. Apelles (Rom. 16:10) was bishop in Smyrna before St. Polycarp. St. Lucius (Rom. 16:21) was bishop in Laodicea, Syria. St. Clement was bishop in Sardica.

The Repose of the Ven. Joasaph

In the world Andrew, was the son of the Zaozerie Prince Dmitri Vasiljevich who was killed by the Tatars. After the death of his father he remained an immature child and was deprived of fatherly destiny by the Grand Duke Vasili Vasiljevich the Dark. He felt the futility of worldly life since his early childhood, and for him it was pitiable, and, being 20 years old, he accepted monasticism in the Rock of the Savior Monastery, on Lake Kubena. Charged to the direction of the skilled Elder Gregory (later the bishop of Rostov, see May, 3), the prince monk devoted all his time to prayer and reflections about eternity and observed the strictest fast. The last year his life he ate food only once a week and partook of the Holy Mysteries every Sunday. After 5 years of zealous service to the Lord, he died in 1453. His relics, glorified by wonders, now rest in the Rock of the Savior Monastery (see the Vologda Diocese).

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 325-6
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