

September 16

G. † Holy Great Martyr Euphemia the All-Praised



The daughter of a senator, she suffered for Christ in Chalcedon in 304 during the reign of Diocletian. Having adorned her soul "with the virtue of virginity", she was not afraid of the persecutors of the Christian faith. Seized with other Christians, who were secretly celebrating a divine service, she "having rejected feminine infirmity", firmly confessed herself a Christian and for this she was subjected to terrible tortures. They tied her to a spinning wheel with sharp knives, threw her into a burning furnace, tortured her in prison and, finally, threw her to feeding animals. God protected His confessor unharmed amidst the tortures and she, quietly conquered her "torturers pride", died in the arena of the circus among the wild beasts licking her feet. Seeing her torture, two warriors converted to Christ: **Victor and Sosthenes**. The relics of St. Euphemia, after the Persians took Chalcedon, were translated to Constantinople in about the year 620. Here during the days of iconoclasm her holy relics were thrown into the sea. Pious Christians took them from the water and brought them to the island of Lemnos. Her holy relics were returned to Constantinople during the reign of Empress Irene in 796. See July 11.

Troparion, tone 4

**Your lamb Euphemia, O Jesus,
Calls out to You in a loud voice:
I love you, my Bridegroom,
And in seeking You, I endured suffering,
And stretching out and burying myself in Your baptism,
I suffered for Your sake, so that I might reign in You,
And I died for You, so that I might live with You.
But accept me as an undefiled sacrifice,
For I have offered myself to You in love. //
Save our souls through her prayers, since You are merciful.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**All praised Euphemia,
You honorably completed your ascetic struggle,
And after death, you poured out wonders sanctifying us.
Therefore we hymn your holy Dormition,
Flowing in faith to your divine temple,
In order to deliver ourselves from spiritual illnesses, //
And profit by the grace of your wonders.**

Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:1-10; sel. 181. **Gospel:** Luke 7:36-50; sel. 33.

Martyr Sebastiana, Disciple of Apostle Paul

She suffered for Christ in Heraclea during the reign of Emperor Domitian. In Marcianopolis and Heraclea, St. Sebastiana was subjected to beating by whips with lead tips, her body was stretched out on tiles, and she was raised up on a wood pile, given over to wild beasts and, finally, beheaded.

Martyr Melitina

Born in Marcianopolis, during the persecution of Christians during the reign of Emperor Antoninus, she underwent various tortures: many times she was imprisoned, hanged on a tree and her body stretched out.

Ven. Dorotheus, Egyptian Desert-dweller

He was born in the Thebaid and practiced asceticism for 60 years in the desert near Alexandria. He was noted for his diligence, vigilance and severity to his body. By day he collected stones on the sea shore and built a cell, and by night he made baskets out of palm branches, thus always having a prayer on his lips and in his heart. He died in about the Fifth Century.

Martyr Ludmila, Grandmother of Viacheslav (Wenceslas), Prince of the Czechs

The wife of the Prince of Czechia Borivoi, together with him she received holy baptism from St. Methodius. St. Ludmila zealously spread Christianity in Czechia and brought up her grandson, St. Viacheslav in Christian piety. She died in Tetin, being strangled at the instigation of her daughter - in - law in 927, and buried in the church of St. George in Prague.

Repose of St. Cyprian, Metropolitan of Kiev and all Russia

Born a Serb (according to others, a Bulgarian), he began to practice asceticism as a monk on Mt. Athos. In 1376 he was installed as the metropolitan of all Russia during the life of St. Metropolitan Alexis. Therefore St. Cyprian at first ruled only in the Southwestern part of the Russian Church. When the Moscow See became vacant in 1390, Cyprian in his rank as Metropolitan of All Russia was revealed to be a wise and zealous observer of the God's Church, its purity of doctrine and establishment. He very much cared about the order of the divine services. For this purpose he sent to the dioceses various church order of services and Ustavi (typicons) sometimes written in his

own hand, corrected obvious errors in the divine service books, translated the Priest's Service Book (Sluzhebnyk) from the Greek language and wrote manuals concerning divine service practice. Busy with these concerns he did not leave literary works, monuments which would make his pre-eminent among historical compositions. According to the excerpts from the chronicles, he was full of "love of wisdom and reason" and "very learned, and was very spiritual even in the writing of his books by hand and frequently was occupied in prayers and in the reading of Divine Scripture". He died in 1406. His relics, uncovered in 1472, rest in a hidden place in the Moscow Dormition Cathedral.

Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "Look after Humility"

In 1420 this holy icon was revealed on Stone Lake (Kamennoye Ozero), Pskov Government. It is now in Pskov. On this holy icon the Mother of God is presented as sitting, a scepter in her right hand and she holds the Divine Child on her knees with her left hand. With His right hand He touches the face of the Mother of God, and holds a round globe (symbol of the world) in His left hand. Crowns are on the heads of the Mother of God and the Savior.

Ven. Procopius

He was born in the Bohemian settlement of Khotun. As a priest he worked hard for the spread and the strengthening of Christianity in Czechia. St. Procopius built the Monastery of St. John the Forerunner on the Sazava River, in which he also practiced asceticism before his death in 1053.

Martyrs Isaac and Joseph, Brothers

Born in Theodosiopolis (now Erzerum, Armenia), they were unwilling to renounce Christ and accept Islam and were beheaded in the year 808.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0337-8
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