

September 27

C. Holy Martyr Callistratus and his Troops (49 martyrs who suffered for Christ in Byzantium in the year 304).

St. Callistratus, born in Carthage, was a warrior. His father taught him the Christian faith, and his father learned it from his grandfather Neoscorus who was present with the military command during the suffering of the Savior and who saw with his own eyes His suffering, death, and glorious resurrection. One of the Callistratus troops was the Martyr Gymnasius, who, "loved Christ with firm resolve, and was pierced with zealousness". This holy martyr is hymned in the service for this day together with Martyr Callistratus. The Holy Church in one of its hymns with such a name is turned toward its children: "Let us hymn the passions of Callistratus, Let us celebrate in words the ills of Gymnasius, who suffered with them for a long time, let us bless the faithful with love, and let us cry out to them: O Pious Arms-bearers, intercede to grant us peace and great mercy".

Kontakion, tone 4

**You have endured diverse wounds,
And you openly received crowns from God,
O Blessed One, pray to Christ for us,
Who accomplish your all festive memory.
O greatest Callistratus and those suffering with you,
Who pacify the flock and the people:
For you are the confirmation of the faithful.**

+ Our Ven. Father Sabbatius, Wonderworker of Solovetski

At first Ven. Sabbatius practiced asceticism as a monk in the St. Cyril-Belozero Monastery. Here his virtuous and strict life received universal respect. But Ven. Sabbatius, fleeing from the humility of human glory left the monastery for the north, where he found Ven. Herman on the Vyg River (see on July 30) and together with him went over to the Solovetski Island. Here, "whipping the roots of passions, destroying demonic pressures and driving away all ambushes with the full armor of the cross", both saints practiced asceticism in strict solitude, fasting and prayer. In the words of the Holy Church, Ven. Sabbatius flourished "like a cedar in the desert, increased the flock of sheep through the words of Christ in reverence and truth", destroyed "every increase of passion through abstinence with firm and strong patience" and disgraced "by very opposition everything of arrogance". In the 6th year of his asceticism on Solovetski Island, Ven. Sabbatius, feeling the approach of death, hastened to the main land and peacefully died in 1435, about 10 versts (7 miles) from the mouth of the Vyg River. His relics repose in the Solovetski monastery (see Apr. 17).

Troparion, tone 3

**Having left the world and settled in the wilderness,
You practiced good asceticism through mortification, vigilance and prayer.
Therefore after death you poured out healing.
O our Father Sabbatius,
Ask Christ God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Having run from living fame,
You settled on the island in the sea, O Wise One.
And having taken up your cross,
You followed Christ in prayer, vigils and fasting.
Exhausting your flesh through mortification,
You were that venerable catalyst.
For this reason we lovingly celebrate your memory, O Venerable Sabbatius.
Pray unceasingly to Christ God for us all.**

His Synaxis is done in his monastery and where his temple exists.

Paramoëa: see September 9. **Matins Gospel** and so forth see March 17.

Martyr Epicharis suffered for Christ in Rome during the reign of Diocletian.

Ven. Ignatius, Hegumen of the Savior "Deep River" Monastery in Asia Minor, practiced asceticism in the tenth century. He died in Amorium, while returning to the monastery from Constantinople.

Holy Apostles Mark, Aristarchus and Zenas

St. Mark also called John (Acts 12:25), preached Christ together with Apostles Paul and Barnabas, and then became Bishop of Biblos in Phoenicia. See April 15 for information on St. Aristarchus. St. Zenas, the disciple and the co-worker of Apostle Paul, was the Bishop of Diospolis (Lydda) in Palestine.

Martyr Jacqueline (Aquiline)



She was born in the village of Zagliveri, Thessalonica Province. In 1764, she was subjected to severe torture from which she died for refusing to become a Moslem.