

# September 28

B. ✙ *Our Ven. Father and Confessor Chariton*



Born in Iconium, he was presented before the court for confessing Christ during the reign of Emperor Aurelius. Being protected by "the life-bearing armor of the cross", Chariton fearlessly confessed the Savior "before the cruel judge" and accused the pagan gods of falseness. They began to torment Chariton, but he, "counting mammon and glory as nothing", remained unbowed. Then the tormented martyr was imprisoned where the Lord wonderfully healed his wounds. During the reign of the new emperor Chariton together with other prisoners were freed and Chariton went to Jerusalem to venerate the tomb of the Lord. Near Jericho Chariton was seized by robbers who threw him bound into a deep cave, intending to kill him later, and went on with their shameful deeds. By the providence of God, snakes crept into a vessel with wine standing in the cave and poisoned the wine, which the returning robbers drank. All of them died. Having loosed his bonds, Chariton decided to remain in the same cave and began to lead an ascetic life there. Soon others seeking the life of a hermit came to him, and Chariton built for them the Pharan Laura which later became well-known and for which he wrote a typicon (Ustav). Later, seeking solitude, Chariton left for a deserted place, but even here he was found by adherents of the monastic life, and he founded a new monastery, the Jericho. To be precise Chariton also founded a third monastery, the Souka (the Old Laura). Ven. Chariton died in the year 350 and is buried in the robber's cave. He established the Rite of Monastic Tonsure.

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Having delighted in abstinence, O Divinely-wise One,  
And having bridled carnal desires,  
You revealed yourself as having been formed in faith.  
You flourished as the tree of life in the center of paradise,  
O Most Sacred, All-blessed Chariton.**

**Matins Gospel:** Mt. 4:25, 5:1-12; sel. 10. **Epistle:** see May 15. **Gospel:** See Apr. 26.

*Holy Prophet Baruch*

He was disciple, friend and scribe of the Holy Prophet Jeremiah with whom he criticized and taught contemporary Jews and endured their hatred, prosecution and persecution. He predicted the return of the Jews from captivity, and the coming

of the Son the God who would "live among men" on earth, and about the complete desolation of Babylon. He died in Egypt in the Sixth Century before Christ. "The Book of the Prophet Baruch" belongs to the uncanonical list. It is placed in the Bible as a useful and worthy addition to the book of the Prophet Jeremiah. We read from it in the Paramoia proclaimed as the Prophecy of Jeremiah for Compline of the Nativity of Christ.

*Martyrs Alexander, Alphaeus, Zosimas, Mark the shepherd, Nikon, Neon, Heliodorus and others*

They suffered for Christ during the reign of Diocletian. St. Mark, who was a shepherd, was seized for torture in the vicinity of Antioch in Pisidia. Also seized were the 30 warriors whom he converted to Christ, for which they were beheaded in the city of Nicaea. Three brother blacksmiths, Alexander, Alphaeus and Zosimas, who also were converted to Christ, were led before the rack of St. Mark, while seeing the torture of St. Mark they died from the pouring of red hot boiling tin into their mouths. St. Mark after torture was nailed to a tree and beheaded in Claudiopolis. His head, brought into temple of Artemis, broke all the idols in it. Seeing this miracle, Saints Neon, Nikon and Heliodorus converted to Christ and were beheaded for this in Maromilia.

*Killing of St. Viacheslav (Wenceslas), Prince of the Czechs*

He was the son of Bratislav and the grandson of St. Ludmila (see Sept. 16). As a well educated and deeply pious prince, he zealously cared for the spread of Christianity and enlightenment of Czechia and was known for his love for the temple of God through his merciful and compassionate charity. In 935 he was traitorously killed, as some think, by the intrigues of a German-Roman Catholic party, by his brother Boleslav on the threshold of the church to which he went for Morning Prayer. His relics were transferred to Prague and put in the church of St. Vitus constructed by him.

*Ven. Herodion of Ilozero*

Disciple of Ven. Cornelius of Komel (see May 19), upon the death of his guide he left for Ilozero (in Novgorod province) and there founded a monastery named Ozadskoi - Ilozero. He died as a Schema-monk in 1541. His relics repose in a hidden place in his monastery (now the Rodionov cemetery, Beloozero district).

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0356-0357  
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