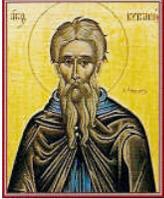


September 29

A. † Our Ven. Father Cyriacus the Hermit



Born in Corinth, the son of a priest, he was tonsured by Ven. Euthymius the Great. Then he practiced asceticism about 30 years in the Souka (Old Laura) Monastery, 5 years in the Natoupha Hermitage and 5 years in the Rufus Hermitage. For food the ascetic ate "bitter herbs", and his regular task was "prolonged vigils and prayers". Unceasingly stifling in himself the "dainty desires of carnal sweetness" and "cleverness", Ven. Cyriacus subjugated his "flesh" to the spirit and died in the Souka Monastery in 556 at the age of 107 years.

Troparion, tone 1

**A dweller in the desert and an angel in the flesh,
You were revealed to be a wonderworker,
O our God-bearing Father Cyriacus,
Through fasting, vigil, and prayer you received heavenly gifts,
Healing the infirm, and the souls who came to you in faith:
Glory to Him, who gave you strength,
Glory to Him, who crowned you,
Glory to Him, who grants healing to all through you.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**The sanctified Laura always honors you,
As a strong advocate and intercessor,
And annually celebrates your memory.
But having boldness before the Lord,
Keep our enemies from finding us
That we may cry out:
Rejoice, O Thrice-blessed Father.**

Epistle and Gospel: see September 25.

Ven. Theophanes the Merciful

He lived in the city of Gaza, had a family and loved the poor so much that he became impoverished because of the poor. He died from dropsy. His relics were glorified by the flow of healing myrrh.

Martyrs Dada, Gabelas, and his sister Casdoe

They suffered for Christ about the middle of the fourth century in Persia. St. Dada was formerly grandee at the court of King Shapur. By his own steadfastness in suffering he converted St. Gabelas, the son of King Shapur, and his sister Casdoe,

who also died from cruel torture. The magus Gargal suffered with them.

Eighty Martyrs of Byzantium were burnt in a marine vessel for their steadfastness in Orthodoxy during the reign of Emperor Valens.

Martyr Gudelia suffered for Christ in Persia in the fourth century. By command of the King of Persia Shapur, she was nailed to a tree.

Repose of Ven. Cyprian of Ustiug

Ven. Cyprian was a land owner in the Ustiug Volost (district of several villages), but he accepted monasticism in 1212 in the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Monastery founded not far from the city of Ustiug. He gave this monastery all his property. Having taken up the administration of the monastery, Ven. Cyprian constantly cared for the edification and tranquility of the brethren for whom he frequently deprived himself of rest. All his life he tirelessly labored with the desires of a newly initiated monk every day as if it were the first day of his asceticism, and ended each day of his labors as if there would not be any possibility to labor more, as if it were the last day of his life. The stone which served as his head-rest is still kept in this monastery to this day. It was that stone he held in his hands during his all-night ascetical efforts so that he would not fall asleep involuntarily but that he would vigorously pray with his soul. In that way he practiced asceticism in his monastery, as though he buried himself alive in it, not even leaving beyond its wall before his death in 1276. His relics repose in a hidden place in his monastery (see Vologda Diocese).

S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0357-0358.

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