

October 12

B. Holy Martyrs Probus, Tarachus, and Andronicus who suffered for Christ during the reigns of Diocletian and Maximian



Holy Martyr Probus

St. Tarachus, a Roman citizen and warrior, was born in Claudiopolis, Isauria. St. Probus, a Thracian, from Perga, Pamphylia, and St. Andronicus was the son of a famous citizen of Ephesus. For confessing Christ all severely suffered first in the city of Tarsus (in Cilicia), then in Mopsuestia and finally in the city of Anazarbus. They were all beheaded after undergoing terrible tortures in the year 304.

Troparion, tone 5

**The heavenly powers were amazed at the struggles of the Holy Martyrs,
For even in their mortal bodies,
They fell upon the bodiless enemy by the power of the Cross,
Invisibly defeating them.
Therefore they are praying to the Lord to have mercy on our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Soldiers and Martyrs of Christ, Probus, Tarachus, and Andronicus,
Revealed to us the glory of the Trinity:
For you cleansed all from the errors of atheism,
Fighting valiantly for the faith,
O honorable sufferers.**

Epistle: see June 2. **Gospel:** see St. George, February 4.

Our Venerable Father Cosmas of the Holy City, Bishop of Maium, and Author of Canons

He was the closest friend and co-worker of the Venerable John of Damascus. For his piety he was installed as the Bishop of Maium, and worked very hard in this position for his flock and died in peace at the end of the Eighth Century

(after 776). Glorifying the hierarch as "nourisher of wisdom, "nurse of purity", "enlightener of the faithful" and "renowned theologian", the Holy Church witnesses that Bishop Cosmas was "meek and humble of mind, calm and blameless in speech, kind and guileless, chaste and righteous, most simple and wholesome". Brought up "in piety and faith" and "with the mind and soul adorned in wisdom", Bishop Cosmas adorned the Church "with systematic and didactic hymns", satisfying "reason", and "which clearly open to all" "the truly strange and most wonderful mysteries of Christ".

Kontakion, tone 8

**God-inspired Cosmas, you adorned yourself with virtues,
Adorning the church of Christ with hymns, O Blessed One.
But pray to the Lord to deliver us from the snares of our enemies, //
We cry out to you: rejoice, O most richly adorned Father.**

Celebrating St. John the Baptizer of the Lord in memory of the transfer from Malta to the city of Gatchina of a cross from part of the wood of the life-creating cross of the Lord, the wonderworking icon of the Mother of God (Philermia) written by the Holy Evangelist Luke, and the right hand from the relics of St. John the Baptist. The Maltese knights protected these holy relics since the time of the Crusades and brought them to Gatchina as a gift to the Emperor Paul 1 in 1799. In the same year all these relics were transferred to St. Petersburg, to a church of the Winter Palace. Since 1852 annually on October 11 these relics are brought to the church of the Gatchina Palace, from where on October 12 they in a cross procession are transferred to the Gatchina cathedral, where they remain for 10 days for veneration and prayer services by all the people.

A special service was written for this feast, but since 1800 it was only marked on calendars and was not celebrated anywhere. In 1852, when the St. Paul's Cathedral was constructed in Gatchina, the celebration of the feast was restored which was also performed annually in the Gatchina Palace church and in the St. Paul's Cathedral.

Martyr Domnica suffered for Christ in the city of Anazarbus during the reign of Diocletian. After severe tortures for Christ, she was thrown in prison, where she died in 286.

St. Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours

Born a Roman, he first served in the military service. Later he accepted monasticism and after seven years of good ascetical efforts, according to the revelation of God, he was installed as Bishop of Tours in France. Having become

glorified for his unusual generosity, great miracles and ability to prophesy, he died in about the year 400.

Celebrating the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Jerusalem

According to tradition, St. Luke wrote this wonderworking icon fifteen years after the Ascension of the Lord, in Gethsemane. In the year 453 Emperor Leo I transferred the holy icon from Jerusalem to Constantinople. Being transferred to Korsun (Chersonese), this holy icon was received as a gift (in 988) by the Equal to the Apostles Prince Vladimir, who transferred it to Kiev. When Novgorod accepted the Christian faith, St. Vladimir brought the Jerusalem Icon of the Mother of God as gift to Novgorod, where it arrived in the St. Sophia Cathedral. Having conquered Novgorod, Tsar Ivan the Terrible in 1571 transferred this holy icon to the Moscow Dormition Cathedral. During the invasion of Napoleon, the French stole the Jerusalem Holy Icon of the Mother of God and now is in Paris, in the Cathedral of Notre Dame. In place of it an ancient accurate copy taken from the Moscow Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos is placed in the vestibule of the Dormition Cathedral.

Venerable Amphilocius, Macarius, Tarasius and Theodosius of Glushetsk

The Venerable Amphilocius already a monk came to the Glushetsk monastery to assist its rector the Venerable Dionysius (June 1). And he became the most reliable helper for Dionysius during the building of the monastery, strictly supervising and observing the monastery Typikon (Ustav) for twenty years. His meekness and humility was immeasurable; he cared only for the soul, which is why he wore the most modest clothing. After the death of his guide he became the hegumen of the monastery and died in peace in 1452. His relics are in a hidden place in the temple named for him. The Venerable Macarius succeeded him. He was born in Rostov, and spent twelve years in ascetic efforts in the Glushetsk Monastery and died in 1478. His relics are in a hidden place in the Glushetsk Monastery. The Venerable Tarasius was the hegumen of one of the monasteries built by Bishop Stephen (see April 26) and was one of his fervent co-workers in the propagation and the establishment of the Orthodox faith among the Zirians. Having entered into voluntary obedience to the Venerable Dionysius, he practiced asceticism in the Glushetsk Monastery for ten years, leading a most severe and strict life in fasting and vigils, destroying his body. Tears of affection constantly moistened his cheeks, testifying to his deep humility and afflicted heart, so that all marveled at his patience and looked upon him as on one of the ancient great ascetics. Reaching deep old age, he died in 1440. His relics are in a hidden place in the Glushetsk St. Dionysius Monastery (see the Vologda Diocese). The Venerable

Theodosius was a disciple of the Venerable Dionysius. His relics repose in the same Glushetsk Monastery, near the relics of the Venerable Tarasius.

The Smolensk Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

This holy icon appeared to the Archimandrite Adrian of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Laura in a pine forest about 5 versts (3.3 miles) from the city of Yaroslavl in 1642. It was glorified by many miracles.

The Rudno Icon of the Mother of God appeared in the locality of Rudno, Mogilev Province in 1687 and now is in the Florovsky Monastery in Kiev.

Today we celebrate *the Kaluga Icon of the Mother of God* in memory of its deliverance of the city of Kaluga from the French in 1812. See Sept. 2.

Yermansk Icon of the Mother of God.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 373-5
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