

# October 14

## *The Holy Martyrs Nazarius, Gervase, Protase, and Celsius*

The holy martyrs Nazarius, Gervase, Protase, and Celsius suffered during the reign of the Emperor Nero in the city of Milan. The martyrs Nazarius and Celsius, who worked hard for the enlightenment of the pagans in the faith in Christ, were subjected to various tortures, were fed to beasts, thrown into the sea and, at last, when both survived, were beheaded. The martyrs Gervase and Protase were twins. St. Gervase for confessing Christ was whipped to death by tin rods, and St. Protase was truncated by the sword. Their relics were discovered in 357 and are now in Milan.

### *Kontakion, tone 8*

**Having appeared as bright lamps, divine martyrs,  
You enlightened all creation with the light of your wonders,  
Releasing from infirmities,  
Ever driving away the deep night,  
Continually pray to Christ the One God for us all.**

### *The Venerable Parasceva (Petka)*

Born in the Serbian village of Epibata (between Silinaurius and Constantinople) she was brought up in a pious family. After the death of her parents and hating “the vain seductive way of life” she, “as a faithful faster” and “an adornment of virgins”, entered monasticism and left for the Jordan valley, where she practiced asceticism up to old age. Here “by works of fasting”, “by true affection and perfect humility” she overcame the “demon’s hosts” and “bodily passions” and lived a “bodiless life in a material body”. Within two years of her death obeying a call from heaven, she returned to her home country and settled in the temple of the Holy Apostles, where she died peacefully (in first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century). In the year 1238 by the order of Tsar John Asen, the relics of Venerable Parasceva were transferred to Trnovo, the capital of Bulgaria; upon the capture of this city by the Sultan Bayazid the relics were transferred to Jassy, the capital of Wallachia. After Wallachia fell to the Turks in 1396 the pious Serbian Prince Militsa begged for the relics of the Venerable Parasceva and they were transferred to Belgrade. In 1521 they were bought by the Turks, who took them from Belgrade and transferred them to Constantinople, and in 1641 to Jassy, where they repose to this day in the cathedral.

### *Troparion, tone 4*

**Having loved the hermetic and silent life,  
And having longingly run in the footsteps of your bridegroom Christ,  
You accepted His good yoke in your tender years.  
By the sign of the Cross you courageously fought against the noetic enemies;  
Through asceticism, fasting, prayer and the shedding of tears,  
You quenched the burning coals of the passions.**

**O Parasceva, Worthy of Glory:  
Standing now before Christ in the heavenly bridal chamber,  
Together with the wise virgins, //  
Pray for us, who honor your memory.**

*Kontakion, tone 6*

**Holy intercessor of all who are in trouble,  
Let us piously hymn the All-honorable Parasceva:  
For she rejected the corruptible and accepted the incorruptible way of life forever: //  
Therefore discover the glory, the grace of wonders, by the command of God.**

**Her Synaxis is done among the Serbs.**

*The Hieromartyr Silvanus of Gaza* was a presbyter of the Gaza church. After tortures he was beheaded in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

*Venerable Nicholas, named Sviatosha, Prince of Chernigov, and Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves.*

Son of the Chernigov prince David Sviatoslavich, at first he reigned as prince in Lutsk, and then in Chernigov. Being married and having children, he left family, principedom and all earthly pleasures and in 1107 accepted monasticism in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves. Here he practiced asceticism as a simple monk fulfilling all monastic obedience, and conducted a life, full of any deprivation. Vainly the brothers of the prince tried to make him regret leaving his former rich and magnificent life. Blessed Nicholas spent his time in labor and prayer, fasting and vigil, for more than thirty years. Tradition informs us, that he built a church in honor of the Most Holy Trinity above the monastery gates, and also a hospital with a Temple of Saint Nicholas (near the Laura Gates). Eating only monastic food, venerable Nicholas distributed to the poor and strangers all that he received from his brothers, princes and boyars. He died in 1143. Almost all Kievans were in the monastery to render their last duty to the blessed prince. Having been glorified with healing, his relics repose in the St. Anthony's Cave. Even after death the clothes of Ven. Nicholas was a source of healing. So, when Prince Isiaslav became gravely ill, they placed on him the hair shirt of Venerable Nicholas and the ill person immediately recovered. The name "Sviatosha" stuck to Venerable Nicholas as a nickname for Sviatoslav, which was given him at birth. The service to him is with the polyeleos.

*The Yakhrom Icon of the Mother of God*

The Yakhrom icon of the Mother of God appeared to Venerable Cosmas (see Feb. 18) in 1482, and was placed in the Dormition Monastery founded by him on the Yakhrom River (see Vladimir Eparchy).