

# October 25

## *C. Holy Martyrs and Notaries Marcian and Martyrius*

They suffered for Christ in the 4th century during the reign of Emperor Constantius. St. Marcian was the reader and St. Martyrius the Subdeacon for the Patriarch of Constantinople St. Paul (November 6). Standing by the Patriarch in their posts of notary (stenographer), they wrote the exhortations of the patriarch to the people to turn aside from the apostate Arians, and zealously taught the Christians to firmly hold on to Orthodoxy. Both of them died in 355, being beheaded by the sword by the Arians.

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**You were good ascetics from childhood,  
O Marcian and wise Martyrius,  
You vanquished the apostate Arius,  
Protecting the Orthodox Faith intact,  
Following the wise teacher Paul.  
Therefore you deserve to have life with him,  
For you are respected defenders of the Holy Trinity.**

**Epistle:** Eph. 4:7-13; sel. 224. **Gospel:** Mt. 10:1, 5-8; sel. 34.

### *St. Demetrius Saturday*

On the Saturday before October 26 the commemoration of all Orthodox Christians who have died in faith and hope is made. This Saturday is called St. Demetrius from the commemoration near it of St. Demetrius of Salonika. The establishment of this commemoration belongs to Demetrius Donskoy, who after the Battle of Kulikovo on September 8, 1380 commemorated the fallen warriors and established this commemoration annually on the Saturday before October 26. Subsequently together with the warriors other deceased began to be remembered<sup>i</sup>.

**According to the Christian Menologion, published by the Synodal Printing House in 1863: if the memory of St. Demetrius will fall on Saturday that there should be a Memorial on this Saturday. But there is no basis for such an instruction for the Memorial on the day of the commemoration of St. Demetrius neither in history nor in the Church Typikon [Ustav]. Neither is it apparent that in ancient Russia the Memorial was ever made on St. Demetrius Day. According to the Ustav [Typikon] the day of St. Demetrius,**

having the festal sign ✙, are related to similar feasts such as the Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner (Feb. 24) and the Memory of 40 Martyrs (Mar 9.). But if these last feasts will fall on the Memorial Saturdays of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th weeks of Great Lent the service for the departed on these Saturdays will be dropped (see Ustav [Typikon] for February 24 and March 9. Following this pattern there should not be a Memorial Service on the day of St. Demetrius if it falls on Saturday but that it should be done on the preceding Saturday (see the Grant for the publication of the Nikolsky Ustav 1888). As in the Ustav [Typikon] there is nothing present about St. Demetrius Saturday, that to comply with it follows the custom of the imperial Panakhida, which, if it falls on festal day or Sunday it is served on the eve (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger], 1888, 42). In 1895, the Holy Synod, on the occasion of the concurrence on the 21st of October, the very solemn day that the Sovereign Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich was enthroned with St. Demetrius Saturday, decided that: this church service prescribed for this Saturday would be transferred to Friday, October 20, the day of the repose in God of the Sovereign Emperor Alexander Alexandrovich (Decree of the Holy Synod Sept. 27, 1895, № 2905).

*Martyr Anastasius* suffered for Christ during the reign of Emperor Diocletian in Salona [Split, Spalato], Dalmatia. For boldness in preaching Christ to the Pagans he was executed by the sword and his body was thrown in the sea.



*St. Tabitha* lived in Palestine, near Lydda [Lod], and was a woman disciple of the Holy Apostle Peter. It happened that she became ill and then died. The Holy Apostle, entering the home of the deceased, prayed and revived her (see Acts 9:36-43).

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<sup>i</sup> Among the people, St. Demetrius Saturday carries the meaning of memorial because on this day commemorations for the departed are made. It is still called the parental, grandparental day agreeing with how the people call their ancestors, making commemorations for them.