

November 11

Holy Martyr Menas

Born in Egypt, a warrior, he during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian left military service and, having gone to the desert, in fasting and prayer he was tonsured there. During one pagan feast he was revealed in the city of Cotiaem (in Phrygia) and began fearlessly to accuse the pagans of their errors. St. Menas was immediately seized and turned over to the cruelest tortures, after which with a sword they beheaded him (in the year 304). In a service for this day together with Menas the martyrs Sts. Victor, Vincent and Stephanida are glorified; but the majority of the church hymns are devoted in honor of the holy Martyr Menas.

Troparion, tone 4

**Your holy martyrs, O Lord,
Through their sufferings have received their incorruptible crowns from
you, our God.
For having your strength they laid low their adversaries,
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons. //
Through their intercessions, save our souls.**

(Text tr.: Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Monastery)

Kontakion, tone 4

**O long-sufferer Menas,
You were snatched from temporal armies.
Christ our God,
Who is the incorruptible crown of martyrs.
Even showed you incorruptible by the heavenly company.**

Epistle see February 4. Gospel: Matthew 10:32-26, 11:1-2; sel. 38.

Holy Martyr Victor

The Holy Martyr Victor suffered for Christ in the city of Damascus, during the reign of the Emperor Antoninus. St. Victor was born in Italy. For confessing Christ he was thrown into a flaming furnace and boiling oil and,

when by the power of God he remained unharmed, they beheaded him with a sword.

Holy Martyr Vincent

Born in Spain, he was a deacon in the city of Augustopolis. During the persecution of Christian under Diocletian he was given over for crucifixion in the city of Valencia. Miraculously saved from death on the cross, St. Vincent then was burnt on an iron grid. His relics today repose in Rome.

Holy Martyr Stephanida

Having seen the sufferings of the Holy Martyr Victor (see above), she confessed Christ and for this she torn into pieces, being tied between two date palm trees.

The Venerable Theodore the Studite



Born in Constantinople, he received his higher education and, having accepted monasticism, he was tonsured in their Saccudion monastery, committing his life to the high principle of good works. During the reign of the Emperors Constantine Copronymus and Leo the Armenian Saint Theodore suffered much as a venerator of icons and underwent imprisonment. In the reign of Irene he founded the Studite Monastery in Constantinople, for which he wrote the rule and in which he was the rector. The venerable Theodore put in the basis of the monastic organization the general rule of St. Basil the Great, for which he was given special respect and with which he knew to perfection, while yet a monk in the Saccudion monastery. Following these rules in his the personal life, he soon became rector, and tried to apply them to the structure of the whole monastery. Owing to the increase in the number of brothers, the venerable Theodore did not have enough time, nor the strength to enter into it himself and personally to keep the rules, that is why he set up the entire order of positions, to help him with the administration and management of the monastery. For the

direction of these persons he wrote a manual in iambic verses, where he set forth the duties beginning with the abbot and ending with the least of the brethren. He died in 826 in the little place of Acritos. The Venerable Theodore left many compositions, letters, canons, and church stikhera. The Typikon is indebted to the Venerable Theodore for his significant additions, concerning the structure and cycle of the church services. For the Great Lenten services the Venerable Theodore structured the Three Ode Canon for Matins, and together with his own brother Joseph of Saloni_a was called the author of the Triodion.

Troparion, Tone 8.

**O Guide to Orthodoxy, Teacher of piety and purity,
Luminary of the universe, Counselor to hierarchs:
O Theodore most wise,
You have enlightened all by your teaching, Harp of the spirit;
Pray to Christ our God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, Tone 2.

**By your ascetical and angelic life,
You undertook the ascetical effort with longsuffering,
And you were revealed as a dweller with angels, O God blessed Theodore,
With them cease not to pray to Christ our God for us all.**

*Repose of the Holy Blessed Maximus, Fool for Christ's Sake, Wonderworker
of Moscow*

He was tonsured in Moscow in the 15 century "He was righteous and gentle, truthful and chaste, avoided every evil thing" and "shining with piety". Enduring both cold and heat, the Blessed Maximus dressed in sackcloth ran on streets of Moscow and with brief sayings taught the people with patience who accused him of sins. He died in 1433. In 1568 his relics were found incorruptible and were glorified with miracles. They repose in Moscow, in a temple of his name. See August 13.

Troparion, tone 5

**With naked flesh and great patience
You uncovered the cunning of the enemy,
Exposing his impure deeds.
Suffering greatly from scorching heat and biting frost,
You did not feel great need for fire,**

**Being covered by Divine help, O most wise Maximus.
Pray for those who with faith are honorably keeping your memory
And are zealously hastening to the shrine of your relics,
That they may be delivered from troubles and falls.**

Kontakion, tone 1

**Wishing for the higher beauty,
You have reckoned as nothing the sweet delights of the flesh and attire,
And you have loved poverty instead of this vain world,
You have died leading the angelic way of life, O Blessed Maximus,
With them pray unceasingly to Christ for us all.**

The cathedral is constructed where his relics lay, and where his temple is.

Stephen Dechani, King of the Serbs (1321-1336)

He became famous by his piety, love for building temples to God (he constructed the Dechani monastery) and compassion for the poor. Having led most of his life under the oppression of various disasters, Saint Stephen died a martyr. He was strangled by agents of his own son in Zvelane __ 1336. His relics are in the Dechani Monastery.

Martyrius of Zelensk, See March 1.

*S.V. Bulgakov, Manual for Church Servers, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp .407-9.
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