

November 17

A. ☩ *Our Father among the Saints Gregory, Bishop of Neo-Caesarea, Wonderworker*



Born in the city of Neo-Caesarea, he received an excellent education under the direction of the famous Origen. Upon the completion of his education, St. Gregory left for the desert in which he "subdued demonic assaults and carnal deception", and entirely turned himself over to prayer and the study of Holy Scripture. Soon because of his virtuous life, the inhabitants of Neo-Caesarea elected him bishop. In this rank he so zealously worked at converting the pagans to Christ, that when he died there were only 17 pagans in Neo-Caesarea. When he became bishop there were only 17 Christians. St. Gregory was called wonderworker and another Moses because of the many miracles performed by him. He died about the year 270. The Holy Church blesses him as "the strong conqueror of atheistic evil", "giver of the laws of piety and wise teacher", "an imitator of the apostles as a worker of miracles", "guide of those who had gone astray and physician of the infirm", "giver of abundant requests to those entreating you, the mightiest oppressor of demons".

Troparion, tone 8

**You have earned your name through your way of life,
Through your vigilant prayer and constant works of mercy.
Therefore, Father Gregory, pray to Christ God to enlighten our minds, //
That we may not fall asleep to death.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**You received the power to perform miracles,
Frightening the awful demons and healing the sick through your signs. //
All-wise Father Gregory, your deeds truly entitle you to be called wonderworker.**

Epistle: see Jan. 25. **Gospel:** see Jan. 31.

 *Our Venerable Father Nikon Wonderworker, disciple of St. Sergius*

Born in Yuriev Povolzhsky, in his youth he, "having scorned earthly beauty and glory as being nothing", came to the Venerable Sergius, but he reassigned him to his disciple the Venerable Athanasius Vysotsky (to Serpukhov, the eminent). When the Venerable Nikon under the direction of this great ascetic achieved the rank of priest, the Venerable Sergius accepted him in the monastery in 1375. The Venerable Sergius loved the Venerable Nikon so much because of his habits and his life that he lived with him in the same cell and finally shortly before his death assigned him to be the Hegumen. Because of his love for solitude the Venerable Nikon for a time gave up being Hegumen in the monastery and departed from it for the exercise of ascetical efforts of silence. In 1422 he was granted the privilege to open the uncorrupt relics of his director (see July 5). "Pointing out the paradigm of your good deeds to all, having the grace of God Who loves mankind deeply within you", "serving the Lord with purity of conscience", he lived "on earth as an angel" and died in peace on Nov. 17 in 1427 or 1428. The Council of 1547 numbered him among the saints. In 1548 a church was built over his grave, and in 1623 in place of this church the new St. Sergius Laura was built, existing to the present time. In the northwest corner of church, along the northern wall, there is a monument (gravestone) over the relics of the Venerable Nikon, which are found in the ground or in a hidden place.

Troparion, tone 1

**Having been a good zealot of obedience,
O Ever-memorable and Venerable Nikon,
In praise of your father you erected a church to the Holy Trinity.
Therefore we your children lovingly cry out to you:
Glory to Him who has given you strength.
Glory to Him who has crowned you.
Glory to Him who through you works healings for all.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Having cleaved to your spiritual superior in all things, O Father Nikon,
And being instructed by him, you enslaved yourself to Christ.
You were a superior of monks
And co-dweller with the venerable ones.
With them beseech Christ God incessantly for us all.**

**His Synaxis is performed in his monastery, and in the temple:
everywhere six times on the same day.**

Paramoegas: see Jan. 6. **Matins Gospel:** see Jan. 10. **Epistle:** see Jan. 15. **Gospel:** Mt.: 4:25- 5:1-12; sel. 10.

Venerable Lazarus, Iconographer

From his youth he struggled ascetically as a monk and for his efforts he was worthy of the rank of priest. He was engaged in the writing of Holy Icons and for this he suffered during the reign of the Emperor Theophilus who ordered that the fingers of the Saint be burned. He died about the year 857.

Venerable Longinus was tonsured a monk in Egypt. He died in the fourth century.

St. Maximus, Patriarch of Constantinople. He is the Maximian commemorated on April 21.

Gennadius of Vatopedi occupied the position of dochiar (*i.e.* economos, treasurer) in the Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos. He was witness to the wonderful multiplication of olive oil in the empty vessels placed before the Mother of God.

Martyr Gobron (Michael) and the 133 warriors with him who suffered for Christ in Kakheti by the Arab Emir Abdul-Kasim in the year 920. For their refusal to accept Islam all the Holy Martyrs were executed by the sword.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Manual for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0415-7
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