

November 22

.. Holy Apostle Philemon and those with him Apostle Archippus and the Martyr Apphia

A wealthy and notable citizen of Colossae (Col. 4:9, 17; Phil. 2, 10), converted to Christ by Apostle Paul (Phil. 19), he was so devoted to the holy faith that his house became a place of assembly for Christians in Colossae and was called a house church (Phil. 2; Col. 4, 17). The Apostle Paul wrote them a special epistle (see February 15). St. Philemon later became the bishop of Gaza. St. Apphia was the wife and co-ascetic of Philemon. Both of them during the reign of Nero were stoned to death as martyrs for their faith in Christ in Colossae. See February 19 about St. Archippus. In the canon of this day together with those saints commemorated the Holy Apostle Onesimus is also glorified (see Feb. 15), and in the kontakion the Holy Apostles Mark and Apollos are also sung.

Kontakion, tone 2

**Like the all-bright stars which light the ends,
We praise the apostles of Christ:
The glorious Philemon and the dedicated Archippus,
And Onesimus, Mark and Apollos with them,
And the all-wise Apphia, singing:
Pray unceasingly for us all.**

Epistle: Phil. 1:1-25; sel. 202. **Gospel:** Luke 10:1-15; sel. 50.

† The Slaying of the Holy True Believing Great Prince Michael of Tver

St. Michael, the son of Yaroslav _I and the nephew of the Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky, began to rule the Tver principedom in the year 1285. Although the throne of the grand-prince Vladimir, after the death of the Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky, should proceed from his son, Andrew Alexandrovich, to Michael Yaroslavich of Tver by seniority. But Prince Yuri Daniilovich of Moscow, not paying attention to the legal rights of his uncle, presented himself as the contender. In the beginning of the struggle against Yuri, Prince Michael won. But, persistently pursuing his purpose, Yuri did not lose hope for success. Having taken advantage of the accession of Khan Uzbek, Yuri, thirsting for the death of his uncle, insisted on calling Prince Michael Yaroslavich before the Horde, accusing him of poisoning his wife Konchaka, the sister of Uzbek, who died while

in captivity of the Tver prince. Wishing to guarantee tranquility to the principedom and to avoid the terrible devastating invasion of the Tatars on Tver, Prince Michael decided to accept the martyr's crown and, in the expiation of the sin, that generated differences between him and his nephew, turned himself over to the will of the Most High, arrived before the Horde in 1319 with his son Constantine. Uzbek arranged for the traitors to judge the Tver prince. Michael's accusers were the Prince of Moscow Yuri and the Horde princes, who fed it with bad feelings. Not knowing any fault for himself, the noble prince of Tver deflected the evil slander, but, after a week, on Saturday, Uzbek issued a lawless command to make a new trial. Then having declared that the prince was lying and that they based their charges on this, they followed with a number of cruel and shocking tortures for this. His righteous pure soul filled with uplifting ardent prayers to God, the holy prince underwent the suffering with surprising courage, worthy of the name great. The final verdict about the holy prince was postponed, as Uzbek then went hunting. The holy passion-bearer attracted many to follow him. Suffering martyrdom by the heavy wooden foot-stocks put on him at night, beatings by the guards and public humiliation and insults, the holy passion-bearer found an inexhaustible source of tranquility for himself in prayer and reading the Psalms of David. Confidants offered him the possibility of escape, but the holy prince, being adorned with "magnificent virtues", "reining in the desire for empire, satisfying food, silver, or gold", rejected this offer and firmly decided to accept his "murder for the commandments of Christ". On the day of his death, he confessed and received the Holy Mysteries and talked to his son Constantine, willingly transferring to him his patrimony and its citizens. At this time the most evil foe of the holy prince, the Horde Prince Kavgadij, already received the death sentence for the blessed passion-bearer from Khan Uzbek. He sent him the murderers who tortured his body, rendering heavy wounds and cutting out his heart. The unprecedented evil on the holy prince, who earned the name "lover of his fatherland" in history, was accomplished on Wednesday, November 22, 1318. Tradition says, that after carrying out the torture and the arbitrary casting away of the body of the Holy Prince Michael, many saw two bright little clouds, which, shining like the sun at night, after the martyr's death shone on the holy prince as if protecting the remains of the holy martyr from the wild animals found in innumerable amounts in the steppes of the Horde camp. And really, no predator touched the body of the holy martyr, and already on the following morning it was said that this holy prince was innocently killed. The body of the holy prince was then brought to Moscow and within a year to Tver. In 1632 the relics of the holy prince were found incorruptible and today openly repose in the Tver cathedral.

Troparion, tone 8

**Having elevated your mind to God,
You wished for the way of life with the angels,
You abandoned the corruptible glory of the earth, O Blessed One,
You have laid down your soul for your people,
You have received your crown for your works, O Godly Wise Michael,
Pray to Christ God for those who lovingly honor your sacred memory.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Seeking the highest glory and disdaining the terrestrial,
You have colored the church of God purple with your blood,
For you suffered for us, O Saint Michael,
Joyfully receiving unrighteousness on your knees:
Therefore, standing with the angels before Christ God,
Pray continuously for us all.**

His Synaxis is performed in Tver and wherever his temple is.

Paramoegas: see Feb. 4. **Matins Gospel:** see Mar. 9. **Epistle:** see Jan. 14.
Gospel: see Apr. 23.

Martyrs Cecelia, Valerian, Tibertius and Maximus

They suffered for Christ in Rome about the year 230. St. Cecelia, a wealthy Roman woman, married the pagan Valerian, converted him to Christ and convinced him to live in virginity. The holy spouses helped Christians a lot suffering in prison, easing their sufferings. Tibertius, the brother of Valerian, also followed their example. All of them were beheaded for their confession of Christ. Maximus, entrusted to do their execution, believed in Christ and also died as a martyr.

Martyr Procopius, Reader



Born in Jerusalem, he lived in the city of Scythopolis (Bethsan) where he was the reader and exorcist at the church. He suffered for Christ in Caesarea Palestine in the year 303.

Mar. Menignus

Born in Parium, Hellespont, he was a dyer of clothes. In the persecution of Emperor Decius in 251, he voluntarily confessed himself a Christian. And having torn down the imperial decree about the persecution, they cut off his fingers and after torturing him, they beheaded him.

Ven. Agabbas

He practiced asceticism in Syria in the 5th Century. Carrying iron chains and wearing a stiff hair shirt, he prayed day and night and observed the strictest fast.

Holy Righteous Michael the Warrior

Born a Bulgarian, from childhood he led a life in ascetic feats of piety. There is a tradition that he through prayer killed a poisonous snake that carried away people in the Rhaitia Hermitage. He died in the city of Potuka in the year 866.

Martyrs Stephen and his friend Mark, suffered together with Martyrs Alexander and Alphaeus. See September 28.

Martyr Agapionus, hunted down by animals in the year 306.

Ven. Callistus, at first he practiced asceticism in the Xanthopoulos Monastery on Mt. Athos and was the former Patriarch of Constantinople in 1396.

St. Clement, Bishop of Bulgaria (Greater). See July 27.

S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0423-0425
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