

November 27

E. † Holy Great Martyr James the Persian



He was born in the Persian city of Beth-Lapat and held an important post at the court. During the persecution of Christians during the reign of Yazdgird, James renounced Christ, but soon, after the admonition of his devout spouse and mother, he deeply repented and again confessed himself a Christian. The angry Yazdgird assigned the fiercest execution for St. James: consecutively, one by one, the members of his body were cut off.

St. James underwent all for the sake of the Lord and died from the heavy tortures with prayer on his lips in 421. His head now is in Rome.

Troparion, tone 4

**You astounded all by enduring horrible torture with great patience,
O Long-suffering One.**

**As the evil assembly performed the slaughter,
You uttered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord.
Through your suffering you received your crown,
And went up to the throne of the heavenly King, Christ God.
O James, entreat Him to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**You believed your good wife, O Patient Guide,
And was awed by the dread judgment.
Persian commands and threats you despised, O James,
And you were revealed an honorable martyr,
As they cut your body as though a vine.**

Epistle: see Feb. 4. **Gospel:** see Jan. 2.

Our Ven. Father Palladius

Born in Thessalonica, he practiced asceticism in Alexandria at the end of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th century.

His service is sung at Compline.

✠ Sign of the Most Holy Theotokos, which was in Great Novgorod.

This feast is established in memory of the former signs and wonders by the icon of the Mother of God during the siege of Novgorod by the Suzdalians in 1170. When the powerful armies of the Suzdalians surrounded the city and the bloody

attacks began, St. John, Bishop of Novgorod (see Sept. 7), carried the Holy Icon of the Mother of God out to the city wall and placed her there for the fallen. Meanwhile the enemies leaned on the city more strongly and in the darkness shot arrows at the city walls, during which one of these arrows pierced the holy icon. Suddenly the holy icon turned its dedicated choir from the fallen and turned to the city, as a sign of the great mercy of the Sovereign Lady to those living in misery. The hierarch, having looked upon on the Divine choir, saw tears flowing from the merciful eyes of the Sovereign Lady, and received these precious drops on his phelonion. Then sudden horror befell the antagonists, they were covered with darkness and they began to mutually fight each other. Seeing their disarray, the citizens opened the gate, attacked the enemies and defeated them with the help of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Troparion, tone 4

**Like an invincible wall and source of wonders,
Your servants standing before you,
O Most Pure Theotokos,
Defeated the armies of the antagonists.
Therefore we pray to you,
Grant peace to your city,
And great mercy to our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Your people are celebrating the sign of your honorable image,
O Lady Theotokos,
By which you bestowed a marvelous victory over the antagonists of your city.
Therefore we cry out to you in faith:
Rejoice O Virgin, the Praise of Christians.**

Paramoëa: see Mar. 25. **For the rest** see November 21.

If the temple is of the Sign of the All Holy Theotokos, the entire service of the Sign is sung according to the podobien as on September 8. Except that the service of the Sign of the temple is sung together with the service for James the Persian.

Refer to the Typicon: If the feasts of the Honored Sign of the Most Holy Theotokos and the Holy Great Martyr James the Persian falls on a Sunday.

In the Typicon (Ustav) and the Menaion two Magnifications are specified: "It is truly meet to magnify you" and "We offer every spiritual hymn to the Theotokos". These are general magnifications for the Feasts of the Theotokos.

† Our Father among the Saints James Bishop of Rostov, Wonderworker

Since youth he was a monk of one of the monasteries of Rostov. For his virtuous life and love for education he was installed as Bishop of Rostov in 1385. In this rank St. James was glorified as the firm trainer of grandees, the expositor of heresies and the compassionate protector of widows, the needy and orphans. On the place of the asceticism of St. Leontius of Rostov, St. James built the Monastery of the Conception of St. Anna. St. James died in 1392. His relics repose in a hidden place in his monastery.

Troparion, tone 4

**O Hierarch James,
You were selected as Godly from youth.
For this reason you were honored with the episcopate,
You fell down before the people, committing yourself to God.
Therefore after your repose you received
The gift of wonders from God to heal various infirmities.
Pray for us, who make your honorable memory,
That we may continually magnify you.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**As you was a concelebrant of bishops,
And a respectable advocate of hierarchs, O Hierarch James,
Continually protect your fatherland, city and people,
Who through faith and honor venerate your honorable relics,
That we may sing to you in a loud voice:
Rejoice, O Divinely-wise James.**

His Synaxis is done, where his relics lay.

Ven. Romanus, the Wonderworker

Born in Rusiana, Cilicia, he practiced asceticism during the 5th century near Antioch, in a small hut outside the city walls. Carrying chains on his body and wearing hairy sackcloth, he ever abided in prayer and observed strict abstinence. During all this time the only food served him was bread and salt; his drink was water. The strict ascetic did not know fire and never used a lamp. Of the moral qualities, he was especially adorned with meekness and humility. Simplicity and availability endeared him to all, and the holy elder emptied his treasury loaded with benefits and gave whatever was needed to anyone entering his hut: to one he offered a word about brotherly affection, to another about concord and peace, and to others by his appearance he bestowed piety. God has awarded him with the gift of working wonders: he "through prayer healed many men of infirmities and enabled many barren women to give birth to children".

*Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Prince Vsevolod, in Holy Baptism
Gabriel, Wonderworker of Pskov*

The holy true believing Prince Vsevolod (see Feb. 11) was buried in the St. Demetrius of Thessalonica Temple constructed by him in Pskov. In 1193, according to a marvelous vision of a certain pious man, the relics of the holy prince were found incorrupt and on November 27 were solemnly transferred from the St. Demetrius Church to the right chapel of the Pskov Holy Trinity Cathedral (see Apr. 22).

Ven. Pinuphrius, practiced asceticism in the 4th century in Egypt. He was glorified for his deep humility, obedience and spiritual wisdom.

Ven. Nathaniel, hermit of Mount Nitria in Egypt, who died about 375.

Ven. Diodorus of Mount St. George

He was born in the Olonets District and since youth he accepted monasticism in the Solovki Monastery. Following his love for solitude, he quite often left the monastery for a deserted island, remaining there for several days. Once Ven. Diodorus stayed on island in solitude for 40 days, and not have taken clothes or food for emergency with him he became so exhausted that his brethren found him barely alive. After his brethren brought him into the monastery, he was united with the Holy Mysteries and his health began to quickly improve. Subsequently Ven. Diodorus founded the Monastery of the Holy Trinity, 25 versts (16.5 miles) from Olonets, at Mount St. George. He died in 1633. His relics repose in a hidden place in his former monastery (now a parish church). There is a handwritten service for him.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0433-0435
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