

December 2

Holy Prophet Habakkuk (Abbacum)



Eighth of the twelve Minor Prophets, he was from the root of Simeon and prophesied during the Babylonian Captivity. In the words of the Holy Church, the Prophet Habakkuk "standing guard for the Divine", "comprehended the advent of God" and "announced to the world Christ's resurrection". He left his book, consisting of three brief chapters, in which is his prophecy about the captivity of the Judean people and about the destruction of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans. He died about 600 years before the Nativity of Christ.

Kontakion, tone 8

**Preacher of God Habakkuk, you announced to the whole world
The advent of God from the South, from the Virgin.
Standing on the Divine Watch, you received a report from a radiant angel:
You announced the Resurrection of Christ to the world.
Therefore in joy we cry out to you:
Rejoice, shining goodness of prophets.**

Venerable Athanasius, Recluse of the Kiev Caves

He was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev and died after a long illness. The brotherhood already prepared him for burial, but when on the third day after his death they came to his cell, they found him sitting and crying bitterly. When they began to question the Venerable Athanasius about what happened to him, what he saw and heard, he only admonished them to pray, to do penance and be obedient in all to the abbot and then he shut himself in the near caves, in which he struggled ascetically for twelve years. He died in about 1176. His relics repose in the St. Anthony caves. There is a special doxology service written for him.

Venerable John, Heraclemon, Andrew and Theophilus

They came from the city of Oxyrhynchus from a famous family line and were tonsured by the anchorites in the Egyptian desert. They died in the 4th century.

Martyr Myrope

Born in the city of Ephesus, she during the persecution of Decius left for the island of Chios, where she was tonsured in fasting and prayer and she buried the bodies of Christian martyrs. For this the torturers seized her and she confessed Christ and after severe tortures she died in about 251. She was called Myrope because she collected myrrh at the graves of the martyrs and with it healed the sick.

The Venerable Cyril the Beloved died in 1060.

St. Jesse, Bishop of Tsilkani

A student of the Venerable John of Zedazeni (see May 7), for his saintly life was installed as the bishop of Tsilkani (in Cartalini). St. Jesse spent all his life in preaching the word of God and suppressing the remnants of paganism in his diocese. The Lord blessed his god-pleasing ascetical struggles with the gift of working wonders. He died at the end of the sixth century. His relics lie in a hidden place in the cathedral of the Tsilkani temple.

St. Stephen Urosh, King of Serbia, Son of King Dushan

He ruled over Serbia for twelve years and was treacherously killed in 1367 on Kosovo field. His relics repose in the monastery of Jazak in Srem. The Serbian service thus witnesses to him: "from his youth he was devoted to the Lord, like a father he consoled widows and orphans, he mediated quarrels and sanctioned peace, cared for beggars, and protected the wronged"

S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp/ (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 438-439
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