

December 8



Our Venerable Father Patapius

Born in the city of Thebes Egypt, he was tonsured as a monk in the Egyptian desert in the 7th century; then he moved to Constantinople and here in a small cell in the church of Blachernae he struggled ascetically until his death. "Having acquired humility, poverty, and continual prayer, and love, and faith, and hope", together with them he had the gift of healing the infirm and power over impure spirits.

Kontakion, Tone 3

**Those who come to your temple with reverence, Holy One,
As a place of spiritual healing,
Ask to receive the healing of their infirmities
And forgiveness of the sins they have committed in their lives.
For you are seen, Venerable Patapius,
As an intercessor for all in need.**

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

*The Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas,
Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Caesar and Onesiphorus.*

See March 30 for information about Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Caesar and Epaphroditus. The Apostle Tychicus was Bishop of Colophon after St. Sosthenes. The Apostle Onesiphorus also was Bishop of Colophon and died in the city of Paria (on the shores of the Hellespont), being tied to wild horses and dragged to death by them.

*The Holy Martyrs in Africa killed by the Arians, and St.
Anthysa burned in Rome.*

All these holy martyrs suffered under the Emperor Zeno and the Vandal king Gaiseric (477-484). For their unwillingness to accept Arianism, 300 orthodox laity were beheaded, 2 priests were mutilated and burnt, 60 priests had their tongues cut out for the sake of Orthodoxy. At the same time St. Anthysa was burned because she would not accept Arian baptism.

The Venerable Cyril of Kholm or Kholmogory (kholm in Finnish means mountain)

Having accepted monasticism in Novgorod, in the monastery of the Venerable Anthony the Roman, he left for silent ascetic struggles on Mount Kholm (about 50 versts (33 miles) from Kargopol, Olonets Province). Here he worked hard for the conversion of a Finnish family to Christ. At first the venerable one underwent trials of suffering from the Finns, but many years of ascetic life and his short instruction have disposed many "pagan cheese-eaters" to accept Holy Baptism and by the end of his life he built for the newly illumined the Theophany Temple, and for the zealous pious ones a monastery, in which he struggled ascetically up to his death. The Venerable Cyril lived in the desert in works of fasting and desert exercises for 52 years, and he lived to be 82 years and 3 months old. The visage of the venerable one was: a noble, large head, pale face, great long beard, flaxen hair, attired in red, kind eyes, high brows, very indomitable spirit, having a piercing glance. According to his Life, the Venerable Cyril was born in 1286 and was tonsured in 1306 and died in 1368. But, in the opinion of some, he actually lived 178 years later indicated in the years in his Life, and was tonsured not in 13th and 14th, but in 15th and 16th centuries. The relics of the Venerable Cyril rest in his monastery in a hidden place.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 449-50.
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