

# April 3

## *E. Our Ven. Father Nicetas the Confessor, Hegumen of the Medikion Monastery*

Born in Bithynian Caesarea, he was first a sacristan of the church, then a monk of the Medikion Monastery. "Having been meek and simple", "enlightened with chastity and purity" and because of his holy life he soon was elected rector of the monastery. As a strict adherent of Orthodoxy, Venerable Nicetas suffered much torture for iconolatry during the reign of Leo the Armenian. Sentenced to imprisonment on the Island of St. Glyceria, he languished there for 6 years. During the reign of Michael the Tongue-tied he was released, but soon died in the year 824. During his life and after his death he worked many wonders.

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**Having acquired a heavenly mind and life,  
Shining brightly as the sun in the splendor of your deeds,  
You enlightened those living in darkness and guide all to God,  
O Father Nicetas, pray unceasingly for us all.**

*Ven. Illyricum* practiced asceticism on Mount Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus.

## **Martyrs. Elpidephorus, Dius, Bithonius and Galycus**

They suffered in the 3rd century. Elpidephorus died by the sword, Dius was stoned to death, Bithonius was drowned in the sea, and Galycus was fed to wild beasts.

### *Virgin Martyr Theodosia*

Born in Tyre, fearlessly visiting Christian prisoners (in Palestinian Caesarea), she was arrested and sentenced to cruel torture. St. Theodosia remained unshakeable in her faith and was thrown into the sea (at the beginning of the 4th century). Her relics were later transferred to Constantinople. See May 29.

### *Martyr Paul, Russian Slave*

In his youth he was captured by the Tatars and sold to Turkey. He was freed at will for his long honorable service. The Turks reported to the Vizier that Paul accepted Islam. In 1683 Paul after torture was beheaded in Constantinople for firmness in his faith and the accusation of Mohammedanism.

*Ven. Nectarius Bezhetsky*, founder of the Entrance Monastery (now closed), died in 1492. His relics are in a hidden place in the temple of the former monastery in Bezhetsk, Tver Diocese.

*Icon of the Mother of God of the Unfading Flower*

S. V. Bulgakov, *Handbook for Church Servers*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0129b-0130.  
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