

April 22

G. Our Ven. Father Bishop Theodore of Sicyon.

Born in the city of Sicyon, Galatia, he since childhood secretly left his parents home to attend the Matins service every night in the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George located near the city. When he was 14 years old "full of grace", he started to practice asceticism at this church, enclosed in a narrow cave, and in this way soon became glorified for his asceticism that he was ordained a presbyter. Having gone to Jerusalem for the veneration of the holy places, he accepted monasticism there and, having returned home, he founded the St. George Monastery at the temple in which he was the hegumen. His holy life soon induced the inhabitants of Anastasiopolis to elect St. Theodore to be their bishop against his will. Within 40 years Theodore again returned to a quiet, silent life in the monastery, where he devoted himself entirely to monastic asceticism. From Theophany up to Pascha the saint had the custom to be enclosed in a dark iron cell, wearing chains. He revealed in his life "upright abstinence, patience, faith and hope, humility and love". St. Theodore by prayer healed illnesses, during a drought caused rain to fall on the earth and exterminated locusts that were wasting fields. He also had the gifts of clairvoyance and prophesy. Venerable Theodore died in peace in 613, being informed of his death beforehand.

Troparion, tone 2

**Having been known to be sanctified from a swathed child,
And revealed full of grace, you lit up the world with wonders,
And you drove away a multitude of demons, O Sacred Officiator Theodore:
Therefore pray to the Lord for us.**

Kontakion, tone 3

**As upon a fiery chariot with virtues, O God-bearer,
Ascending, you flowed to the heavenly mansions:
You lived with men like an angel
And you exulted around with the angels as a man:
Therefore you were shown to be a divine vessel of wonders, O Venerable Theodore.**

Translation of the Relics of the Right-believing Prince Vsevolod (of Pskov), in holy baptism Gabriel

In 1834 on the first day of Pascha by command of Emperor Nicholas 1 the relics of the Holy Prince Gabriel, were found again in the chapel of the Pskov cathedral (see February 11 and November 27), were transferred to the main cathedral and were soon moved from the old wooden reliquary to a new silver one.

Ven. Vitalis

He lived in the second half of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th century. Having entered the monastery of Ven. Seridus in his youth and having undertaken the saving yoke of asceticism, he abided in this monastery in fasting, abstinence, prayer, crucifying and destroying his flesh of passions and carnal desires, taking off the old man and putting on the new in the spiritual clothing of moral purity and holiness.

When he was 60 years old, he left the monastery and, having settled in Alexandria, he took up the special extraordinary kind of asceticism, the conversion of harlots. Every day the venerable one worked as a day worker from morning until evening, but at night he entered the brothel, went in to the harlot and gave her his earned money, asking her to give up her vicious life, and, then, until morning he prayed to the Lord for the conversion of the dissolute woman. The next night the holy starets [elder] also went to another harlot, and, doing everything as he did with the first. Living thus up to his death, the venerable one underwent much reproach and abuse from the people, but he never revealed his good deeds. The harlots, seeing that the starets [elder] prayed for them the whole night, came around to repenting and, bending their knees prayed together with him. The starets [elder] hastened to take advantage of such a momentary mood: he exhorted them to convert to the way of the upright, threatened them with the terrible judgment, warned them about the eternal torment in Hades, but at the same time he also encouraged them with the mercy of God. They were moved in their soul, understood the abominableness of their behavior and promised to be corrected. So by the prayers and exhortations of the holy starets [elder] many fallen women, having thrown aside the way of sin, converted to the way of salvation.

After the death of the holy man pleasing to God many healings from just a touch of his relics testified to his holiness. In the hands of St. Vitalis was an open will: "men of Alexandria! Do not judge your neighbor, as though to show you he is not guilty, do not judge before the judgment seat of God".

Holy Apostles Nathaniel, Luke and Clement. See June 11 for Apostle Nathaniel, October 18 for Apostle Luke and November 25 for Apostle Clement.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0144b-0145.
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