

May 28

F. Our Ven. Father Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon

A monk since his youth and being installed as Bishop of Chalcedon because of his virtue, Ven. Nicetas was especially glorified for his Christian love: the poor found a protector, the orphan a father, widows and the down-trodden an intercessor in him. During the reign of Leo the Armenian Ven. Nicetas was a zealous advocate of iconolatry and for this, after much suffering, was exiled in the 9th century. As expressed by the Holy Church, he demonstrated in his life "the patience of Job" "the meekness of David and the gentility of Moses". His honorable relics were the source of wonders.

Kontakion, tone 8

**You shone by the splendor of your deeds, O Venerable One,
You became an heir of the Apostolic Throne, O Nicetas,
And you shone upon your flock like the sun, O Father,
Filled with divine teaching we all cry out to you:
Rejoice, O Catalyst of Chalcedon.**

† Commemoration of St. Ignatius, Bishop and Wonderworker of Rostov

A monk, then an archimandrite of the Rostov Theophany Monastery and having become a bishop in 1262, he, "having verbally received the flock of sheep", "the good shepherd" "for the church of Christ", "enlightening all those of darkened hearts, teaching them the true way", being "an intercessor for the poor, the orphan and widow, the firm punishment for the grandees, and the confirmation", defense of the great city of Rostov" and all the while remaining a strict ascetic. He tirelessly worked 26 years for the benefit of the Church and his country. He was at the St. Vladimir Cathedral in 1274, constructed some monasteries, pacified civil strife among the princes and was a true father of his flock. He died in 1288. Ven. Ignatius, as some assert, showed an incorruptibility and healing by the power of his relics even before his burial, was directly recognized a saint after his death before he was placed into the earth and was placed above ground in the Rostov Dormition Cathedral for general prayerful celebrations, and even up to now abides there, reposing openly at the northern door of the cathedral iconostasis.

Troparion, tone 4

**Rightly-believing enlightened by learning,
Having received the flock of a hierarch
And having been an heir of the Apostles:**

**You therefore received the gift of wonders from God,
O Father Hierarch Ignatius,
Pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Today your all-bright memory is revealed,
O All-blessed Hierarch Ignatius,
Radiating light to the world
And revealing divine radiance to all.**

Paramoia and Matins Gospel: see May 9; **Epistle and Gospel for the Liturgy:** see May 23.

His Synaxis is done where his relics repose.

Hieromartyr Helladius

He was a bishop in the east. He suffered a lot for Christ from the Persians and died from beatings in the fourth century

St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene after being tortured was drowned in the first century.

Martyr Heliconis [Heliconida]

During the reign of Gordian in the time of the persecution of Christians, she left her native land, Thessalonica, to go to Corinth and here accusing the idolaters of faithlessness, she was subjected to torture: she was severely beaten, scorched with fire, had her head skinned, her breasts were cut off and she was thrown into prison. But nothing could shake her belief in Christ. The angry torturers threw her into a heated furnace, but the Lord kept her unharmed amidst the fire. She was fed to wild animals which only caressed her and licked her hand. In the weakness of rage the torturer then ordered to behead St. Heliconis [Heliconida] in 244.

Martyr Metro (or Demetrius) suffered by the Turks in 1794.

Zachary [Zachariah], from Prusa in Asia, suffered in this city in 1802.

Nicene icon of the Mother of God appeared in the year 304.

Antiochian icon of the Mother of God.

Ven. Sophronius, Stephen in the world

Born in the village of Penkovtza, near Sofia, he was a monk in a monastery near Ruse on the Danube River and died a martyr, being killed with an axe by his servant about the year 1510. In 1512 his relics were found incorrupt, sweet smelling and glorified by wonders.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0189-0190.
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © June 16, 2007. All rights reserved.*