

June 6

D. Our Ven. Father Bessarion, Wonderworker of Egypt

Shining with the light of the grace of God from his youth, he visited Jerusalem and the Palestinian ascetics, learning from their way of life. Working "with spiritual powers on carnal passions", he distributed his estate to the poor, accepted monasticism and left for the desert for silent service to the Lord. Wandering about a deserted jungle and streams in sackcloth and exhausting the body with strict fasting, the venerable one did not lie down sideways for 40 years but slept sitting or standing. God glorified him with the power of wonders: through prayer and the sign of the cross he made bitter sea water sweet, through prayer caused rain to fall during a drought, walked on water as if on land, and worked other wonders. The Venerable One died at a very old age at the end of the 5th century.

Kontakion, tone 2

**Having imitated the powers on high, O Venerable One,
You lived the way of life of birds.
Led by steadfast desire for the heavenly blessings of Christ the King
You put temporal things into oblivion until you attained Him.
O Bessarion: pray unceasingly for us all.**

Ven. Hilarion the New, Hegumen of the St. Dalmatus Monastery

From youth a monk of St. Dalmatus Monastery and disciple of St. Gregory of Decapolis, he practiced the asceticism of silence for 10 years, while cultivating the monastery garden. Having found out that they wanted to install the heir of the departed as Hegumen of the monastery, Ven. Hilarion, avoiding glory, secretly left to Opsicia, to the monastery of the Cathars, but, here in the open he was forced against his will to accept the rank of Hegumen. The firm and unshakable defender of the true, Ven. Hilarion suffered for honoring holy icons. Banished in prison a few times for his firmness, the Venerable One peacefully died in the monastery in the year 845. He is called the "new" in contrast to Hilarion the Great commemorated on October 21.

Kontakion, tone 2

**Like a shepherd you built a life-bearing fence in your pasture
And protected your flock unharmed,
And you were revealed great deeds from on high, O Hilarion the New.
Let us accept the many torments and travails according to piety.
Because you were inducted into the all-joyful life on Mount Zion:
Pray for us, O Venerable One.**

Venerable Virgin Martyrs: Archelais, Thecla and Susanna

Practicing asceticism in a small monastery near Rome, during the persecution of Diocletian, the holy virgins left for Campagna, wearing men's clothing and settled there in the city of Nola. Here they practiced asceticism in a pious way of life, healed the sick brought to them, gave everyone good advice in the difficult circumstances of life, comforted and encouraged the sorrowful and unfortunate and many of the pagans converted to Christ. Their virtuous life soon aroused the suspicions of the persecutors: the holy virgins were arrested and as Christian women were subjected to cruel punishment, during which the torturers tormented St. Archelais being the eldest, with special rage. The torture of the holy virgins was accompanied with wonders. They threw St. Archelais to feed hungry lions, but the lions lay at her feet as if they were hands. They planed her body with iron spikes, at the same time pouring boiling oil and tar on the wounds, but she long-sufferingly underwent the torture of her body, and God cooled the strength of the oil and tar. They wanted to roll a huge rock over her, but the rock knocked down the torturers but not her. Many of those seeing the wonders accepted the faith in Christ. Then all the holy virgins were beheaded by the sword. This happened in 293 in Salerno, Italy.

Repose of Paisius, Hegumen of the Protection Monastery, near Uglich (see Iaroslavl Diocese)

He was born in the Tver province, near the city of Kashin, and was the nephew of Ven. Macarius Kaliazin (see Mar. 17). After the death of his parents, while yet 11 years old, Ven. Paisius came to his uncle's monastery, who also invested him in monastic garb. Under the leadership of the latter, Ven. Paisius spent his monastic life in the asceticism of obedience, fasting and prayer, being occupied in copying soul-saving books. "A man wonderful and spirit-bearing, most glorious living example of holiness and most astounding wonderworker", at the request of Prince Andrew Vasilievich, he founded the cenobitic Protection Monastery in 1464 within 3 versts [2 miles] of Uglich, in which he also was elected Hegumen. The Venerable One was also the "founder and organizer of the Holy Nikolsky Grechozaruchniia Monastery" in 1489. Practicing asceticism in the Protection Monastery, Ven. Paisius reached a very old age and died in 1504. His relics, glorified by wonders, repose in a hidden place in the Protection Monastery. His memory is found on this date in the Menologion published by the Sinodal'naiia Tipografiia [Synodal Press] in 1863, but in the Menologion of 1891 it is omitted.

Repose of Jonah of Klimets

Once overtaken by a storm on Lake Onega and in view of the inevitable danger and fervently praying to the Lord, the Novgorod merchant made a promise to devote his remaining life to repentance and serving the one God. Thrown out

onto Klimets Island by a storm, he accepted monasticism and on the place of his rescue founded a cenobitic monastery in the name of the Holy Trinity, but would not accept being Hegumen in it because of his humility. Having carried out his remaining life in the strict asceticism of fasting and prayer, the Venerable One died in 1534. His relics are in a hidden place in his monastery that is now closed.

Pimen Icon of the Mother of God

This icon was brought to Moscow from Constantinople by Metropolitan Pimen in 1387 and is now in the Cathedral of the Annunciation.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0197-0198.
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