

# June 8

*B. † ☩ B. Holy Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates*



Today we celebrate the translation of his relics from Heraclea to Euchaita in the year 319. See February 8.

**For the Troparion, Kontakion, Epistle and Gospel,** see February 8.

*Ven. Ephraim, Patriarch of Antioch*

A warrior of Antioch, he helped the needy very much, distinguished by mercy and compassion for the unfortunate and also by meekness and courtesy with everyone. By special inspiration from God, he changed his calling from warrior to that of patriarch. The hierarch was a zealous advocate for Orthodoxy and wrote many compositions in defense of the Chalcedonian Council. Ven. Ephraim asserted the truth of Orthodoxy not only in word but also with wonders. He died in the year of 545.

*Ven. Zosimas of Phoenicia*

Born in the village of Sidon, near the city of Tyre in Phoenicia and having left for the nearest monastery, he accepted monasticism. And through prayer and together with other ascetic deeds he so improved his spiritual powers that he was granted the gift of clairvoyance from the Lord, having predicted beforehand the earthquake in Antioch in 526. Also he had the ability to tame wild animals. He died near the middle of the 6th century.

*Venerable Athre, disciple of the Venerable Or of Nitria (see August 7)*

He was tonsured in Egypt, revealing himself an example of strict obedience. He died in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

*Ven. Naucratius*

On the one hand admitted to brotherhood of St. Basil the Great and on the other hand Naucratius, who died on April 16, 848, was the disciple of Ven. Theodore the Studite. He was exiled for writing icons. And after returning from exile, at the request of Patriarch Methodius and Empress Theodora, he accepted to be the Hegumen in the Studite Monastery. Here he gathered a group of monks and

through their efforts beautified the monastery, "as a certain garden, which satisfied all those wishing to see a magnificent rose of virtues and sweet smelling spirit".

### *Martyr Theophanes*

In his youth he was enticed into Islam, but he soon repented and accepted monasticism. When in Constantinople and wishing to expiate his denial through blood, he confessed being a Christian. For that reason the Turks arrested him and after the cruelest torture they burnt him on a bed of iron spikes (iron lattice) in the year 1559.

### *St. Theodore, Bishop of Rostov.*

By birth a Greek and the first bishop of Rostov, he was enthroned as bishop in the year 991. At that time pagans still occupied the Rostov territory and St. Theodore had much work to do to enlighten them in the Christian faith. The rough and wild pagans threw many insults at the hierarch and once even expelled him. St. Theodore then settled in Suzdal and here enlightened many by the light of the true faith and after much apostolic labor died in Suzdal. Not much is known about the last years of the life of St. Theodore. He died in the year 1023. His relics openly repose in the Suzdal Nativity of the Theotokos Cathedral.

### *Yaroslavl Icon of the Mother of God*

The holy princes Basil and Constantine (see July 3) brought this wonderworking icon to Yaroslavl in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the icon is found in the Yaroslavl cathedral.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p. 0199a  
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris rev. © July 9, 2007; all rights reserved.*