

June 9

A. † *Our Father among the Saints Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria*



St. Cyril was born in Alexandria in the second half of the 4th century and at first practiced asceticism for about 5 years in Nitrian Desert. His uncle Theophilus, Archbishop of Alexandria, called and ordained him to be his deacon. Theophilus knew of Cyril's great talents, his firm faith and broad knowledge (he knew almost all the Holy Scriptures from memory) and is why he often assigned Cyril to the preaching of the word of God. After the death of Theophilus, endeared for his virtuous life, Cyril was elected in his place in the year 412. Removing Jews and Pagans, the enemies of the holy faith, from among his flock, St. Cyril was also busy establishing his flock in faith and piety. His fervent zealousness about the purity of Christian doctrines and unshakeable firmness in the defense of the faith was especially evident in the struggle against Nestorius, who disturbed the church with his heresy. St. Cyril wrote an exhortatory message to the Nestorians, letters to Emperor Theodosius the Younger, to Pope Celestine I and to various monasteries, opposing the opinions of Nestorius and stating the true Christian teaching about the incarnation of the Son of God. At the Third Ecumenical Council called in the city of Ephesus in the year 431, St. Cyril was the presiding officer. St. Cyril died in the year 444. The Church celebrates the day of his death on June 9. He left many instructions in the faith and exhortatory works. See January 18.

Kontakion, tone 6

**O Blessed Cyril,
You openly poured out the depth of the teachings of theology over us,
Drowning heresies from the well-spring of the Savior,
And saving your flock unharmed from triple waves:
O Venerable One,
You were the guide revealing divine things for all countries.**

Epistle and Gospel: see January 18.

+ *Our Ven. Father Cyril, Hegumen of Beloozero [White Lake]*

The son of noble and wealthy Muscovites, he became an orphan in his youth, Ven. Cyril moved into his uncle's home (okolnichi for the Great Prince Demetrius [Dmitry] Donskoy). The brilliant field of secular service was open to the youth, but he aspired to asceticism. After many petitions Ven. Cyril convinced

his uncle to release him, distributed his estate to the poor, and accepted monasticism in the Simonov Monastery (see Moscow Diocese). He won the respect of all the brethren through his asceticism as we distinguished the father of monks - Ven. Sergius. In 1390 the brethren of the Simonov Monastery asked Ven. Cyril to be their Hegumen. Numerous and famous visitors coming to the holy Hegumen for advice and blessings, strongly confused Ven. Cyril, who fled from human glory, and he soon excused himself from the position of Hegumen and practiced asceticism as a simple monk. Seeking complete solitude and silence, Ven. Cyril, according to the wonderful indication of the Mother of God, left for the shore of Beloozero [White Lake] and in the deep forest began to lead the life of a hermit. The adherents of silence began to flow to him, and Cyril established the Beloozero [White Lake] Monastery (see Novgorod Diocese). He himself composed an especially strict Ustav [Typicon] for the monastery and, being the Hegumen, he was an example for all the brethren. Eschewing luxury, he walked about in sackcloth, followed the strictest life of fasting and constantly worked, not shunning the meanest work. Meek and humble, spending all his life “in tears and lamentations, Vigils and prayers” “and diligent in abstinence”, the Venerable One was glorified during his life with the gift of clairvoyance and wonders. Ven. Cyril died in 1427 as a 90 year old Starets [Elder]. His relics repose in a hidden place in the Beloozero [White Lake] Monastery.

Troparion, tone 1

**As David said you blossomed like a lily in the desert, O Father Cyril,
Uprooting the thorns of evil passions,
And you gathered a multitude of disciples in it,
Who were instructed in the fear of God by your teaching,
You did not abandon them to the end
As a child-loving father visiting them
That we all may sing:
Glory to Him who granted you strength,
Glory to the One who crowned you,
Glory to Him who works healing for all through you.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**Having scorned the corrupting and crafty things that take one down, O Father,
You joyfully changed your direction by flowing to the Highest,
And standing there with the saints before the All-holy Trinity,
Pray that your flock be protected from enemies:
That as celebrating your holy dormition we may cry out:
Rejoice, All-blessed Cyril, our Father.**

His Synaxis is done in the monastery where his relics lie and in his temple.

Paramoera: see January 10. For the rest see June 1.

Ven. Alexander, Hegumen of Kushta

Born in Vologda, tonsured in the Spaso-Kamenny [Savior on the Rock] Monastery (on Kubenskoe Ozero [Kubensky Lake]), aspiring to the asceticism of silence, he left for the Kushta River and here, within a few years of strict eremitism, with the help of Demetrius and Simeon Iaroslavsky, founded a monastery. In this monastery, revealing him as a paradigm of the holy and labor-loving life, Ven. Alexander practiced asceticism up to his death in 1439. His relics repose in a hidden place in the former monastery St. Nicholas Church (now a parish).

Martyrs Thecla, Martha and Maria

After torture in Persia during the reign of Shapur, they were beheaded by a sword in 346.

Kolonna Icon of the Mother of God

Judging by the image, it is a "Kolochen" icon (see July 9) wrongly placed here (see Mesiatseslov Vostoka [Eastern Menaion]).

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0199-201.
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