

June 25

F. *Holy Ven. Virgin Martyr Febronia*



Since childhood she practiced asceticism in the Nisibian community of virgins in Mesopotamia under the direction of her pious Aunt Bryene. Distinguished by her physical beauty, St. Febronia was even more distinguished by her virtues: she constantly prayed, read the Holy Scriptures and kept a strict fast. In the year 310 St. Febronia was arrested to be tortured: they beat her, scorched her with fire, scraped her body with sharp iron, pulled out her teeth and chopped off her hands and legs. St. Febronia with firmness endured all these tortures for the sake of the Heavenly Groom, Whom she preferred to the famous young man Lysimachus, nephew of the torturer, offered to her. After torture the holy martyress was beheaded by the sword. Her relics were transferred to Constantinople in 363.

Kontakion, tone 6

**My bridegroom O sweetest Christ, cried Febronia,
It is not difficult for me to follow You:
The sweetness of Your love gives wings of hope to my soul,
And the beauty of Your mercy sweetened my heart,
May I drain the cup of suffering in imitation of You,
That You may find me worthy with the wise virgins
To dance for You in the bridal chamber;
Therefore venerable passion-bearer,
Honoring your ascetic labors, we pray to you:
Pray that we not find the doors of the bridal chamber locked to us.**

Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:1-10; sel. 181. **Gospel:** Lk. 7:36-50; sel. 33.

The service for this day contains after festal hymns in honor of St. John the Forerunner, although this day is not referred to as an After Feast in the Ustav [Typikon].

+ Holy Wonderworkers of Murom, Prince Peter as the Monk David, and Princess Febronia as the Nun Euphrosyne

St. Peter began reigning as Prince in Murom in 1203 and soon was afflicted with a dangerous illness that was cured by a simple girl, Febronia, daughter of a "beekeeper". The grateful prince married her although knowing many opposed this. St. Febronia was a virtuous and wise wife. Once the princess, when boating in a vessel on the river, ordered the grandee, who was captivated by her beauty and looking at her with impure thoughts, to scoop up water by hand on one side and

then on the other side of the vessel. When the princess asked the grandee what was the difference in the water he answered that there was no difference between this and the other water. The princess said to him: "Precisely so is the feminine nature identical, therefore it is foolish to leave his wife and think of another". As intelligent and pious, St. Febronia helped her husband with advice and works of charity. The rule of the holy prince was righteous and merciful. The holy prince and princess both fulfilled the commandments of the Lord and led a rigorous Christian life. They were humble, chaste, not covetous, very much helped the poor and the orphan, honored the priestly and monastic orders and reconciled all those fighting each other, and their home was a shelter "for all those flowing" to them and a "calm haven for those living in sin". In deep old age Sts. Peter and Febronia accepted monasticism and both died on the same day in 1228. The holy relics of this "venerable and immaculate couple" repose in the Murom cathedral.

Troparion, tone 8

**You were like the most honorable branch of a pious root,
Having lived well in piety, O Blessed Peter:
With your all-wise wife Febronia pleasing God the same way in the world,
And you were worthy of the way of life of the venerable:
With her pray to the Lord to protect your country from harm,
That we may continually honor you.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**While thinking as a prince of this world and temporal glory,
You however lived piously in the world,
O Peter together with your all-wise wife Febronia,
Pleasing God in mercy and prayer;
Therefore also after death you lay inseparably in the grave,
Invisibly bestowing healing:
But now entreat Christ to protect this city and people,
Who are glorifying you.**

Paramoea and so forth see June 1.

Their Synaxis is done where their relics lay and where their temple is.

Hieromartys Leonides, Leuius and Eutropius

For faith in Christ they beheaded St. Leonides, burned St. Leuius to death, and they tortured St. Eutropius to death in 310.

Ven. Simeon was an ascetic on Mount Sinai in the 5th century.

Ven. Dionysius

From youth he was a monk in the Philotheou Monastery in Constantinople, but later an Athonite ascetic, the glory of ascetics who attracted many disciples to him. In 1380, he founded the Monastery of St. John the Forerunner for them.

Ven. Dometius

He practiced asceticism on Mount Athos in the Monastery of St. John the Forerunner and after the death of Ven. Dionysius he became its Hegumen.

Ven. Martyr Procopius

From his young years he practiced asceticism on Mount Athos, was meek, distinguished by a simple manner and surprised many by his goodness, strict obedience and patience in the labor of the ascetical way of life. After several years of asceticism, tempted by the intrigues of the devil, Ven. Procopius moved to the city of Smyrna and accepted Mohammedanism. Soon this decision began to prick his conscience and he expiated his sin with his own blood: he declared himself a Christian to the Turks and they beheaded him in 1810 for this.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp 0216-0217.
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