

# August 26

## *G. Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia and those with them (23)*

They suffered for their faith in Christ during the reign of Emperor Maximian in the IV century. During the persecution inflicted on Christians in Nicomedia, Adrian, who was in the same city as the chief praetor, and having seen the firmness of the holy martyrs in their suffering, himself believed in Christ and courageously confessed his faith before the emperor. For this he was subjected to terrible tortures. St. Adrian was then imprisoned by the command of the angry emperor. There they broke his legs as well as those of the other martyrs, after which all the holy martyrs went to the Lord. St. Natalia, wife of Adrian, ministered to him and the other martyrs in prison and strengthened him in his suffering, died in peace on the grave of her husband in Byzantium where his body was taken by the faithful. Subsequently the relics of St. Adrian were transferred to Rome.

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**Adrian, Martyr of Christ,  
You kept the divine words of your godly-wise wife in your heart.  
With her you fervently endured suffering //  
And received the crown of martyrdom.**

### *✙ Celebration of the Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos*

This holiday is established in memory of wonderful deliverance of Moscow from the invasion of Tamerlane. Tamerlane (other spellings: Timar-Lenk, or Temir-Aksak) was one of the most ferocious conquerors. He poured streams of blood in entire countries, exterminated millions of people, destroyed cities to its foundations and everything meeting him on the way was turned over to "a pernicious wind of destruction". He was called "the scourge of God". Asia and Europe shivered before his name. Terrible stories about his inhumane cruelty froze the blood in the veins. Here this terrible conqueror, unrestrainedly brave, inevitably ferocious and blood thirsty, in 1395 crossed the borders of Russia, reached the Don, and spread horror everywhere. Salvation by human power could not be expected, and all the Russian land offered up fervent prayers to heaven. All the Moscow churches were open from morning till late at night. People shed tears, fasted and all prepared for death. During this terrible time the Grand Prince decided to transfer the wonder-working Icon of the Mother of God from Vladimir to Moscow (see May 21 and June 23). On August 26 the holy icon arrived in Moscow. "The whole city with icons went out to meet it". At the head of the innumerable people was the Metropolitan Cyprian "with bishops and archpriests, with hegumens and deacons, with all the clergy and church retinue, in black rasons, and black cassocks,

with pious princes and princesses, with boyars and boyarinas". Dense crowds of people surrounded the first hierarch and accompanied him: "husbands and wives, young men, maidens and old with young men, children and babies, orphans and widows, the poor and needy, all adults of male and female gender, from young to adult, the whole majority of innumerable people of the nation, with crosses and icons, with the Gospel and with torches and censers, with psalms and songs and spiritual singing. All spoke with tears, small and great, and one did not find a person not crying, but all with prayers and lamentation cried out loudly with sobbing". On that very day in Moscow when they met the Vladimir icon of the Mother of God, Tamerlane dozed off in his tent, and in a dream saw in front of him a large mountain on top of which Hierarchs came with golden staffs in their hands. And above them he saw a Woman in crimson robes, shining "more than the sun with visible flashes of lightening", surrounded by thousands of lightening-like warriors. Terribly having turned her gaze on Tamerlane, she ordered him to leave the borders of the Russian land. At the same time the warriors surrounded Tamerlane as the magnificent Woman directed. This wonderful vision made the terrible conqueror tremble. He "was afraid and frightened, and terrified and disturbed, and fear descended in his heart, horror in his soul and trembling in his bones". After this the ferocious conqueror immediately ordered his armies to fall back and left with them from the borders of Russia. Offering up thanksgiving to the Queen of Heaven for her omnipotent help, the Grand Prince and the Metropolitan decided to build a temple of the "Honorable Meeting" in honor of the Mother of God on the place of the meeting of the holy icon" (the Monastery of the Meeting, on Kulikovo Field), "that the people will not forget the acts of God". At the same time it was established to forever celebrate the feast to the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God on August 26.

**Troparion and Kontakion** see May 21.

**If the rector wishes to sing her service with Adrian, like the Sign of the Theotokos with the Martyr James, refer to the Typicon (Ustav) for November 27. See July 8 for the Paramoebas and so forth.**

*Martyr Adrian*, the son of the Emperor Probus suffered for Christ during the reign of Licinius in 320.

*Ven. Tithoes of the Thebaid*, disciple of Pachomius the Great, died in the IV or V Century.

*Ven. Adrian of Ondrusov*

From the Zavalishin family of noblemen, he accepted monasticism under the influence of the manuals of the Ven. Alexander of Svir. Originally Ven. Adrian practiced asceticism in the wilderness of Valaam, but then left for the shore of Lake Ladoga where

he founded a monastery in the name of St. Nicholas (see the Olonetz Diocese). Through his teaching and way of life he converted two robbers, Ondrus and another in monasticism Cyprian living near his monastery, to the true way. Then both became monks in his monastery up to their death. Ven. Adrian ended his life as a martyr. In 1549, after returning from Moscow to the monastery, he was killed near the settlement Obzhi and his body was thrown into a bog. But within 2 years his relics, owing to the wonderful indication of the brotherhood, were found incorrupt and now rest in his monastery in the temple of the Entry.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 297-9  
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