

September 18

E. Our Venerable Father Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna, Wonderworker

From his youth he was distinguished by his piety, "having loved humility", conquering "the subtlety of the flesh by much fasting" and fervently responding to all the misfortunes of his neighbors. Because of his strict and virtuous life, he was elevated to be the Bishop of Gortyna on the Island of Crete and was granted the gift of wonderworking by the Lord. For his opposition to monotheletism and the intrigues of the heretics, St. Eumenes was exiled to imprisonment in the Thebaid, where he died in the Seventh Century. In the words of the Holy Church, Eumenes, "adorning himself with honorable teaching", conquered "the darkness of heresy", "shining with the splendors of wonders" "not being steeped in sin", and, "having completed the good course", reached, as "the converser with holy angels", the abode, "where the council of venerable ones are glad".

Kontakion, tone 2

**Illumined with divine light, O All Blessed One,
You enlighten us, who hymn with love,
Your honored, glorious and holy repose,
O Father, Hierarch Eumenes, //
Unceasingly praying for us all.**

Martyr Ariadne

She served as a servant in the house of Tertillus, one of the oldest pagans in the city of Primnysa in Phrygia, and suffered during the reigns of the Emperors Hadrian and Antoninus for refusing to participate in a pagan celebration of the birth of the son of her lord. St. Ariadne was subjected to beating, her body was planed by iron, and she was starved in prison. Being released from prison, she left for the desert.

Women Martyrs Sophia and Irene were beheaded for Christ during the reign of Emperor Hadrian.



Martyr Castor. According to the Prologue, he "being tormented died".

Repose of St. Arcadius, Bishop of Novgorod

He was elected bishop from among the hegumens of the Dormition Arcadius Monastery near Novgorod founded by him in 1153. And he worked hard at calming the upheavals of the people and the reconciliation of princes. He died in 1163, having left the memory of himself as a meek bishop and the child-loving father of orphans and the needy. The monastery he founded was abolished in 1764.

Great Martyr Prince Bidzini and the Martyr Princes Elizabar and Shalvi

The Eristavi (head of the people) of Ksani, they suffered for refusing to accept Islam by the Persian Shah Abbas II in Isfahan in 1661. Elizabar and Shalvi were unmercifully beaten with canes and dragged along the ground. Then, after imprisonment, they were led to the square, their bodies covered with wounds were plastered with honey and they were attached to columns so that the martyrs had to endure the burning rays of the sun and insects, which by the thousands have stuck all around them, and their bodies inflated like fur. Then the torturer ordered to spray them through with bullets, cut them up into blocks and finally cut off their heads. These brutal tortures were done before the eyes of Bidzini in order to intimidate him, but the holy prince remained the unshakable confessor of Christ and for this the sultan in order to shame him ordered him placed on a donkey and to lead him throughout the city of Isfahan. After this the sultan called well-known rhetors to convince Bidzini to accept Islam but when this also appeared in vain, the sultan ordered the body of the martyr to be dissected, to dismember him with sharp instruments and, finally, to cut off his head. The relics of these holy martyrs are in the Ikhort Archangel Monastery (now abolished), 25 versts (about 16.5 miles) from Gori and 88 versts (about 58 miles) from Tbilisi (Tiflis).

Icon of the most Holy Theotokos the Healer

This holy icon is found in the Moscow Alexei Monastery. It depicts the Mother of God healing a clergyman.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p 0339
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