

October 29



F. Holy Ven. Martyr Anastasia of Rome suffered for Christ during the reign of Emperor Valerian. After the death of her parents, she has been taken in as a 3 year old orphan by a certain rector of a woman's monastery and brought up in the fear of God. When she was 21 years old St. Anastasia suffered in the name of Christ and after cruel tortures was beheaded by the sword. Cyril who gave her water to drink during the time of her suffering was also beheaded with her.

Kontakion, tone 3

**Cleansed by the waters of virginity, O Venerable One,
Crowned with the blood of martyrdom, O Anastasia,
You grant healing of infirmities and salvation to the needy,
To those who sincerely have recourse to you:
For Christ grants you strength,
Springing forth with ever-flowing grace.**

Our Ven. Father Abramius, the Hermit

Ven. Abramius, "from youth having loved purity" and the solitary life, left the house of his father and his young wife and settled in deserted solitude. "With fasting and suffering every evil" he conquered "the desires of the flesh" and beamed "with gentleness, righteousness, chastity and faith". After several years passed in the strict asceticism of fasting and prayer, he became presbyter in a certain pagan settlement in Mesopotamia. The entire three years the Venerable One, shining "with rays of virtue", labored for the enlightenment through faith of the persistent pagans, repeatedly suffered such humiliations and heavy beatings from them that once he was thrown lying half-dead into a nearby forest. But the holy ascetic "endured temptations strengthened by divine faith, and was united to God in love", and nothing could weaken his holy zealousness for the salvation of the perishing. Finally, God blessed and consoled the holy starets (elder) with complete success: all the pagans recognized that long-suffering preacher was the true messenger of God, were converted to Christ and were baptized. After this Ven. Abramius again left for solitude and peacefully died about 360. "As a respected shepherd" he "entered into the enclosure of repentance" but Maria, the daughter of his brother, was led astray from the true way (see about it below), and, "like the truest one pleasing God", "he received the grace to heal passions and to drive away spirits" and "after death he was revealed the physician of the ailing".

Kontakion, tone 3

**You were revealed on earth as an angel in the flesh
And through fasting you flourished like a tree
Nourished by the waters of abstinence,
And washing away stains with the flow of your tears.
Therefore, O Abramius, you were revealed
To be a divine receptacle of the Spirit.**

Epistle: see May 14. **Gospel:** see May 3.

*+ Repose of Our Ven. Father Abramius, Archimandrite of the Theophany
Monastery, Wonderworker of Rostov.*

No evidence survived about the place of his origin and of the time of his birth. According to the church hymns, he "from a child followed Christ and left everything for His sake in love", "through fasting and vigils exhausted his body", "destroyed all carnal subtleties" and "through the font of the Holy Spirit renewed the city of Rostov". The Venerable One arrived in Rostov, already a monk, and settled in a poor hut on the shore of Lake Nero. The Rostov land was then occupied by pagans, and here the Venerable One labored hard at spreading the true faith among the inhabitants, taking "many people" "from the night of idol fury" and "deep darkness" and "leading them to the knowledge of piety". With the staff of St. John the Theologian given to Ven. Abramius, who had wonderfully appeared to him, he destroyed the idol of Beles, "completely eradicating its snares" and on the place where the idol stood he founded the Monastery of the Theophany of the Lord in which he became the rector (see the Yaroslavl Diocese). After this the Venerable One even more increased his homiletic activity and "within a short time he led all to Christ and baptized them from the little to the great". Meanwhile the Venerable One gathered the brotherhood, strengthened in asceticism by his example and teaching, quickly multiplied. Though the Ven. Abramius was the head of the monastery built by him, yet he bore all the labor of the brethren. Pleasing the Lord day and night, abiding in fasting and prayer, at the same time finding time to divide his labor with the brethren imposed by the Typikon of the common life, - he worked with them and for them in the bakery and in the kitchen, chopped wood, laundered the sackcloth of the brethren and in general in every monastic obedience he not only did not fall behind the others, but in everything he was the first and taught all with patience and humble wisdom by his good example. He served as a living example of humility and obedience, voluntary poverty and chastity, spiritual wisdom and love for neighbor for the brethren. The grace God clearly reposed on the Venerable One, his firm faith and continuous prayer constantly protected him from the intrigues of the devil, who could not stand his devout life and remembering his former defeat at the destruction of the idol furiously rose against him and built various snares for him. The Venerable One died in extreme old age on October 29 and was buried near the temple of the

Theophany founded by him. The time of his asceticism, in the opinion of some, relates to the 11th century. His relics were opened during the reign of Grand Duke Vsevolod Georgievich (1176-1212) and now repose openly in the Theophany Cathedral of his monastery.

Troparion, tone 1

**Having been enlightened by divine grace,
You led a faithless people to the light of divine reason,
And after death shining by the holiness of your way of life,
O Our Father Abramius:
Pray to Christ God to grant us great mercy.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**You accepted the yoke of Christ, O Abramius,
And bore His Cross on your shoulder,
You were planted in the house of the Lord,
And blossomed like a date palm and the cedars of Lebanon,
You increased your children, Man of spiritual desires:
Having received grace from the beloved Apostle John the Theologian,
You have destroyed the idol with a staff and have scattered it like ashes,
And you were revealed a great wonderworker, O Venerable One.
Therefore unceasingly pray to Christ God for us all.**

His Synaxis is done in his monastery or his temple where his relics lay.

Paramoëa: see Jan. 10. **Matins Gospel and Epistle:** see Apr. 1. **Liturgy Gospel:** Mt. 4:25, 5:1-12; sel. 10.

Ven. Maria, Niece of Ven. Abramius

She was nurtured under the protection of Ven. Abramius the Hermit (see above). In the 20th year of her life she strayed from the good path, but after the exhortations of Ven. Abramius she sincerely repented and again turned to the pious life. She died 5 years after the death of the Abramius.

Ven. Anna practiced asceticism under the name Euthymian. See June 13.

Martyrs Claudia, Asterius, Neon and Theonilla suffered for Christ in Cilician Aegea in 285. The first 3 martyrs were birth brothers. After terrible tortures they were crucified outside the city. St. Theonilla, a pious widow, died for Christ during torture and was thrown in a bag into the sea.

Ven. Martyr Athanasius, born in Attalian Sparta, suffered for Christ by the Turks in Mountania in 1653.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0395-0397
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