

October 31

D. The Holy Apostles (from the 70): Stachys, Amplias and those with them (Urban, Narcissus, Apelles and Aristobulus).



Holy Apostle Narcissus

The Holy Apostle Andrew consecrated St. Stachys as Bishop of Byzantium, over which he was hierarch for 16 years and died in peace. St. Amplias was Bishop in Diospolis (Lydda), and St. Urban in Macedonia. The Apostle Andrew consecrated both of them as bishops, and they zealously preached Christ to the pagans and for this they died as martyrs from both Jews and Hellenes. St. Narcissus was bishop in Athens. St. Apelles was hierarch in Heraclea. See March 16 concerning the Holy Apostle Aristobulus. In the church services all these are called Holy Apostles.

Kontakion, tone 8

**Like sacred vessels of the All Holy Spirit,
And glorious rays of the sun,
Let us dutifully hymn the wise Apostles:
Apelles, Urban and Aristobulus,
Amplius, Narcissus and Stachys,
Whom the grace of our God gathered together.**

Martyr Epimachus

He was born in Egypt and from the first for a long time was an ascetic in desert solitude on the hills of Pelusium. During the persecution of Christians in Alexandria, St. Epimachus, burning with zealousness for the true faith, went into the city, destroyed pagan altars and firmly preached Christ to the pagans. After enduring many tortures he was beheaded for this in about the year 250.

Ven. Spiridon and Nicodemus of the Monastery of the Caves

They were ascetics in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves in the 12th Century. They were both of simple folk and were occupied in the monastery baking prosphora accompanied with the works of continual prayer and fasting. Their relics are in the St. Anthony Cave. The relics of St. Spiridon repose in such a way that the first three fingers on the right hand are combined for making the sign of the cross.

Ven. Maura

She was an ascetic in Constantinople, where she founded a monastery in which she died in the 5th Century.

Martyr Nicholas of Chios

Born in the village of Karyais on the island of Chios, he was enticed into the acceptance of Islam, firmly confessed himself a Christian before the Turks who slandered him. They beheaded him for this in the year 1754.

Ven. Anatolius of the Monastery of the Caves

He was an ascetic hermit in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves in the 12th Century. His relics are in the St. Anthony Cave.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p 0398a
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