

November 6

.. † *Our Father among the Saints Paul, Archbishop of Constantinople, Confessor.*

He was born in Thessalonica, and was the successor of St. Alexander. He was a "champion of Orthodoxy, like the Apostle Paul adorned with piety, with courage of soul and endurance in tribulation". For his zealous refutation of "the evil opinions of the Arians" he "endured persecution and tribulation" and four times was removed from the patriarchal throne by Emperor Constantius, who was an Arian. Finally, St. Paul was banished to a prison in Cucusa, Armenia where he died as a martyr "for the Trinity without beginning and one in essence". The Arians killed him, strangling him during the service with his omophorion in the year 350. In the year 381 his uncorrupted relics were transferred to Constantinople and in 1236 to Venice where they remain until today.

Troparion, tone 3

**For confessing the divine faith,
The Church has likened you among her priests to another Paul.
Abel cries out to the Lord together with you,
As does the holy blood of Zechariah.
Holy Venerable Father pray to Christ God,
That He may grant our souls great mercy.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**You shone on earth like a star of heavenly splendor,
Now you enlighten the catholic church for which you suffered,
You laid down your life, O Paul,
And like Zechariah and Abel,
Your blood clearly cries out to the Lord.**

Epistle: see Jan. 12. **Gospel:** see Jan. 21.

+ Our Venerable Father Barlaam of Khutin, Wonderworker of Novgorod

The Ven. Barlaam, in the world Alexis, was born in 1156 of pious and rich parents living in Novgorod. Having found an inclination for the monastic life in his youth, he distributed his estate to the poor after the death of his parents, and, with the name Barlaam, accepted tonsure in the Lisitsi Monastery. Wishing to practice asceticism in strict solitude, he left for Khutin, about 10 versts (6.6 miles) from Novgorod. Having built a small cell there for himself he was entirely given to prayer, fasting and labor. The glory of the asceticism of St. Barlaam soon spread in the

vicinity. Both princes and boyars, monks and laymen began to come to him for conversation, and he gave each one long instruction. And many lovers of the monastic way of life wished to conduct their life under his leadership and settled around him. Ven. Barlaam built for them the Transfiguration of the Lord Monastery and cells (see the Novgorod Diocese). St. Gregory, Archbishop of Novgorod, ordained the Ven. Barlaam to the priesthood and appointed him the hegumen of the monastery. Being the hegumen of the monastery, the Ven. Barlaam "standing all night in continual prayer" set the high example of virtue through his life. Being taught "in the commandments of the Lord day and night" his "exhaustion" of the flesh through fasting "and vigil", suppressing in himself "all carnal subtleties" and being glorified by the Lord with the gift of wonders and insight, the Ven. Barlaam was very much respected by princes and hierarchs. He died in 1192. His relics, discovered to be incorrupt in 1452, repose in a hidden place in his monastery.

Troparion, tone 3

**Exhausting your body on earth through reclining, fasting and vigil,
O Venerable One, You have destroyed all carnal knowledge,
You were a healing stream for the independent ones
Who in faith stream to the shrine of your relics,
Our Father Barlaam, pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**Like the other Elijah, O Father, you brought down rain from the sky:
For it quenched the fire and awed the tsar,
You gladdened your people and caused them to celebrate:
For great Novgorod greatly praises you, having your relics in it,
That unshakably protects them from the enemy,
That we call to you: rejoice, Our Venerable Father Barlaam.**

Paramoebas and the Matins Gospel: See Jan. 10. **Epistle:** See Jan. 15. **Gospel:** See Jan. 14.

His Synaxis is performed where his relics lay and where his temple is.

Ven. Luke

He was born in Taormina, Sicily. At the age of 18 he accepted monasticism and practiced asceticism on Mount Etna. He died while on travel in a monastery near Corinth, about 820.

Women Martyrs: Tecusa, Alexandra, Claudia, Matrona and others. See May 18, where they were together with St. Theodotus.

Ven. Luke, steward (economos) of the Caves. The time of his asceticism is not known with precision. His incorrupt relics repose in the St. Anthony Cave.

Repose of St. Herman, Archbishop of Kazan

St. Herman descended from a family of boyars, Sadirev-Polev (descendants of the princes of Smolensk), was born in the city of Staritsa, Tver province at the beginning of 16th century and in the world bore the name Gregory. From his young years he loved church services and the reading of the divine scriptures, observed much moderation in food and all the time devoted himself to pious exercises. When he was 25 years old, with the blessing of his parents and taking the name of Herman, he entered the Volokolamsk-St. Joseph Monastery. And here he learned the high moral qualities of a monk, was the first in the temple for prayer and the last leaving it, and when he was free from services and monastic obediences he devoted his time to the transcription of church service books. Since 1543 Hegumen Gurius, later the first archbishop of Kazan, revealed Herman as the leader in monastic asceticism. In 1555, when St. Gurius was installed the Archbishop of Kazan, St. Herman already was known for his holy life, and was entrusted to build a monastery in the city of Sviazhsk (see Kazan Diocese), in order that it serve as a garden of the holy faith among the Moslems. The Ven. Herman honorably performed his duties and upon the death of St. Gurius in 1564 was installed as the Archbishop of Kazan. Called in 1566 to Moscow to become Metropolitan, St. Herman, with deep monastic humility, distinguished by sincere love of truth and unshakable firmness, powerfully accused the disordered oprichnina (private court) during the first personal appointment of Ivan the Terrible. For this he was quietly removed as Metropolitan and remained in Moscow under the ban of the Tsar for a year and seven months before his death. However the imperial anger did not frighten the firm spirit of Herman. At the council called in 1568 by Ivan the Terrible for the condemnation of St. Philip, St. Herman was one among all who raised his voice in the defense of the innocent. Soon after that council on November 6, 1568, St. Herman died in Moscow in abject poverty from the plague epidemic and was interred in the Nicholay-Mokrago Church. Within 24 years his relics were transferred to the Dormition Monastery in Sviazhsk (see the Kazan Diocese), during which a wonderful odor permeated not only throughout the temple but also the entire monastery.