

November 9

_. Holy Martyrs Onesiphorus and Porphyrius

The Holy Martyrs Onesiphorus and Porphyrius suffered for Christ during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. After tortures and burning on an iron pad, they were attached to wild horses and dragged by them until they died.

Kontakion, tone 2

**The two martyrs mightily suffered,
Having thrown down hostile arrogance on earth,
Enlightened by the grace of the uncreated Trinity,
O Glorious Onesiphorus and Porphyrius,
Pray continuously for us all.**

Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Constantinople

Born in Perga, Pamphilia, and exhausted by the sufferings at the hand of her husband, she hid herself from him and in the clothes of a eunuch was tonsured with the name of Babylus in the men's monastery of the Blessed Bassian (October 10). Then from here she left for the women's monastery in Emesa, and was in Jerusalem and on Mount Sinai and, finally, came back to Constantinople where she founded a women's monastery. After a long and God-pleasing ascetical effort she died in peace in 492.

Venerable Theoctiste of Lesbos

Born in Methymna (on the island of Lesbos), she in her youth was tonsured into monasticism in the women's monastery. Captured by pirates who raided the monastery, they took her to the island of Paros. But there she fled from them, saving her virginity. Finding on the island a dilapidated temple, she began to submit to ascetical efforts in it, constantly abiding in prayer and eating only vegetables. In this way the Venerable Theoctiste led her life for 35 years and died in peace in the year 881.

The service for the Venerable Theoctiste is sung at Compline.

Martyr Alexander of Thessalonica, suffered for Christ during the reign of the Emperor Maximian. Arrested for his confession of Christ, he was brought to sacrifice to idols, but overturned the altar of oblations and for this, after being tortured, he was beheaded.

Martyr Anthony. Born in Apamea, Syria, by trade a diamond cutter, being zealous for the glory of God, he destroyed idols in a pagan temple and began to build a temple to the Most Holy Trinity near Apamea, and for this the pagans killed him.

Venerable John the Short was tonsured in the Skete desert in Egypt. The name of Venerable John "the Short" (in translation into Russian means undersized) means that he "short in stature". The Venerable John distinguished himself with unusual obedience, meekness and humility. His spiritual director, St. Poemen (see Aug. 27), ordered him to water a dry tree and it yielded fruit, which was why it was called "the tree of obedience". After he became the trainer of others (refer to May 8 and 9), the Venerable John cared much for their salvation. He died in first half of the Fifth Century. He left many wise sayings.

Venerable Eustolia and Sosipatra. The Venerable Eustolia from her youth devoted herself to the service of God in the reign of the Emperor Maurice coming from Rome to Constantinople. Here wishing to become a monastic she met Sosipatra, the daughter of the Emperor Maurice. Both were ascetics, with the assistance of the Emperor, who arranged for a women's monastery in Constantinople in which they served the Lord up to the end. The Venerable Eustolia died in 610. The Venerable Sosipatra died in 625.

Venerable Onesiphorus of the Caves, an ascetic in the Kiev Monastery of the Caves in the Twelfth Century. He died in 1148. His relics repose in the St. Anthony Caves.

Venerable Simeon Metaphrastes held an important post in the court of the Emperor Roman the Younger (959-963) and is known for writing the Lives of the Saints, which remain for general edification. He received the name Metaphrastes (translator) because he translated ancient lives of the Saints with the best phrases and content.

Venerable Euthymius and Neophytus were both tonsured on Mount Athos. Venerable Euthymius was before a notable Byzantine official. After he became a monk he founded the Dochiariou Monastery on Mount Athos. Venerable Neophytus, the nephew of the Venerable Euthymius, was formerly an official and the adviser of the Emperor Nicephorus Phocas, and after he left the court, came to the Dochiariou Monastery and here after the death of the Venerable Euthymius, became the abbot. He died at the end of the Tenth or the beginning of the Eleventh Century.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 406.
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