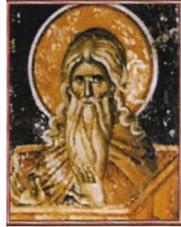


December 11

E. Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite



Born in Samosata, Mesopotamia, he left for a certain monastery to practice asceticism at 13 years of age where he soon surprised the strict ascetics by his zealousness for prayer and diligence. Then he visited the Ven. Simeon the Stylite (see Sept. 1) and with his blessing left for a hermitage in Thrace where he climbed on a pillar about the year 459. Here he “underwent all ferocity”, “both bitterly cold winters and the heat of the sun, and the rottenness of flesh, and from it were worms of animosity”. His holy way of life frequently led the Emperors Leo and Zeno to him for the reception of his blessing and the hearing of his prophecy, always with justified events. Glorified by the gift of wonderworking and insight, St. Daniel died in the year 480.

Kontakion, tone 8

**Having ascended the pillar like a radiant star, O blessed One,
You illumined the world with your venerable deeds,
And dispelled the darkness of deception, O Father,
Therefore we beseech you:
Shine forth even now the never setting light of understanding
Into the hearts of your servants**

Ven. Luke, the new Stylite

A warrior, miraculously saved from death in battle with the Bulgars, he left the vain world and accepted monasticism. Ordained a presbyter, he practiced asceticism on a pillar for 45 years in the city of Chalcedon. In order to observe the vow of silence Ven. Luke carried a stone in his mouth. He died in about the year 970-980.

Ven. Nikon the Dry of the Kievan Caves

The son of rich and famous parents, he, for the sake of Christ, accepted monasticism in the Monastery of the Caves. And during the Polovtsy invasion of Kiev in 1096, he was taken captive by them. The Polovtsy subjected him to severe torture and so that he may not escape from captivity cut his veins below the knees. But the Ven. Nikon, resignedly bearing his sufferings, was wonderfully returned by the Lord to the Monastery of the Caves. He died at the beginning of the 12th century. He was called dry because, as they say in the memory of the Monastery of the Caves, "he died from the loss of blood and decayed from his wounds". His relics repose in the St. Anthony Cave. There is a special service for him.

Martyrs Acepisus and Aithalas

Born Persians, they were beheaded in the city of Arbela for preaching Christ.

Martyr Mirax

An Egyptian born in the city of Tanis, he at first denied Christ, but later, having repented, courageously confessed Him and was beheaded for this in about the year 649.

Ven. Leontius

He was born in Monemvasia, Peloponnese and died in peace in Vostitsa, Peloponnese on or about the year 1450.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 452-3
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