

December 30

Holy Martyr Anysia, Virgin

Born in the city of Thessalonica, the daughter of rich and God-fearing parents, she, having devoted her life to the Lord, abided unceasingly in fasting and prayer and used her estate to help the poor, the sick and captives in prisons. Once, walking in the temple, St. Anysia met a pagan warrior, who stopped her and demanded that she should have brought an offering for the solar feast. St. Anysia refused and for this was killed by the warrior (at the end of the third century).

Here the service to Saint Melania is sung (see December 31).

Martyr Philaret of Nicomedia

The son of the prefect of Nicomedia, distinguished and remarkably handsome, he during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian was subjected to torture for Christ, from which he was unharmed and was released. The Emperor Maximian again subjected him to torture and condemned him to be beheaded by the sword. But both hands of the executioner withered. The executioner began to believe in Christ and for this he was beheaded. After the conclusion of his prison term, St. Philaret was sent in bonds to the island of Propontis (today Marmara, in the sea of Marmara); on the way he performed many miracles, with which he converted six warriors with their leader to Christ. He died peacefully in the country of the Singara in the year 311.

Venerable Theodora of Caesarea

She was from a famous family and, as the fruit of the prayers of her God-fearing mother; she was dedicated to God from childhood and was brought up in the Monastery of St. Anna in Caesarea. Emperor Leo the Isaurian wanted to give her in marriage against her will to one of his close associates, but the groom died in the battle with Scythians and St. Theodora was again left in the monastery. There, she spent the rest of her life in strict monastic ascetical struggles (not later than 755).

Venerable Theodora of Constantinople

After the death of her husband St. Theodora devoted herself to serve the poor and the ill, among those she even served St. Basil the New (see March 26). Having accepted the monastic rank before her death, she peacefully died in the year 940. After her death, Gregory, a disciple of Venerable Basil, fervently asked his tutor to reveal to him where and how Theodora reposes. After the prayers of the

Venerable Basil, St. Theodora appeared to Gregory in a dream and represented to him the life of trials through which she passed, when she achieved eternal rest.

Holy Apostle Timon, of the Seventy. See July 28.

Martyr Zoticus, the Foster of Orphans

From a famous Roman family, he was a presbyter in Constantinople during the reign of Constantine the Great. He founded a hospital and hospices in Constantinople, in which he himself nursed the ill and the needy. Accused of the Arian heresy during the reign of the Emperor Constans he was tied to wild horses and dragged by them until he died (about the middle of the fourth century).

Martyrs Paulinus, Vir, Umbrius, Severus, Callistratus, Florentius, Arianus, Anthimius, Eurekaus, Isidore, Euculus, Samsonius, Studius, and Thespesius

They were God-fearing Christians serving at the court of Constantine the Great, when the court was still in Rome, and, after the capitol was transferred, they together with Zoticus moved to Constantinople. Their suffering took place in the time of Julian the Apostate.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p. 485-486.
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