

September 28

Holy Great Martyr Nicetas

A Goth warrior, he lived on the shore of the Danube River and, "having begun to hate the godlessness of his fathers", accepted the Christian faith and began to zealously spread it among his compatriots. An internecine war broke out among the Goths at this time. Defeated by the pagan Prince Athanaric the Christian Fritigern fled to Greece. Having collected an army there, he returned to the shore of the Danube and defeated Athanaric. As a Christian, Fritigern began converting its citizens to Christianity and in his sermons he very much portrayed St. Nicetas as an example of the saintly life. Soon Athanaric took away the authority of Fritigern and began to severely persecute Christians. Nicetas, distinguished by "firmness of soul", courageously accused Athanaric, wishing to turn him to the way of truth and goodness. Seized by the enemies of the Christian faith, he was sentenced to heavy tortures. But the cruelty of torturers could not conquer the courage of the warrior of Christ. Through his magnanimous endurance of sufferings St. Nicetas conquered "the whole demonic fortress" and after torture they threw him into the fire in 372. His body, unharmed by the fire, was thrown away without burial. But then one of his friends carried it to the country of Cilicia where it became known for many wonders. And then it was translated to Constantinople.

Troparion, tone 4

**Fervently taking up the Cross of Christ as if it were a sword,
You hastened to battle against the enemies.
And having suffered for Christ,
You turned your soul over to the Lord after the fire.
Therefore you were vouchsafed to receive gifts of healing from Him. //
O Great Martyr Nicetas, Pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Having cut down the strength of temptation by your resistance,
And received the crown of victory in your honorable suffering,
You rejoice in glory with the angels.
O Nicetas, namesake of victory, //
Unceasingly praying with them to Christ God for us all.**

Ven. Philotheus, Presbyter

He was born in the Asia Minor village Mravin and was especially known for his abstention, prayer, charitable deeds and the gift of wonderworking. He lived in the X century.

Martyr Porphyrius

He was an actor during the reign of Emperor Julian. Mocking Christians, once he entered the water and plunged into it three times in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, but the grace of God dawned upon him and from a non-believer he became a true Christian. In 362 upon the accusation of apostasy by the Emperor he was beheaded.

Uncovering of the relics of St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene, Confessor during the reign of Decius

St. Acacius was subjected to severe torture for his confession of Christ and then was imprisoned from which he was later released, and died in peace. He should not be confused with the Ven. Acacius remembered on April 17.

Ven. Gerasimus, founder of the Holy Trinity Monastery, near Macrinets, in Zagora, Moesia. His wonderworking head rests in the monastery.

New Martyr John of Crete suffered for Christ from the Turks in New Ephesus in 1811.

New Nicetas Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

This holy icon was revealed in 1772 to the Great Martyr Nicetas. On the icon is depicted the Mother of God with the Pre-eternal Divine Child, standing and holding a cross. The list containing it is in Moscow, at the repository for Gold Crosses.

Ven. Joseph of Alaverdi, Disciple of Ven. John of Zedazni

He spread the Christian faith in Kakheti. In the Alaverdi Desert he founded the Monastery of the Holy Great Martyr George. Before his death the Ven. Joseph shut himself up in a cell, turned to perfect silence and prayer. He died in 570. His relics are in his monastery in a hidden place. He was added to the choir of Georgian saints in the VII Century.