

ICHC NTKRA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

January 12, 2014	Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
January 18	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
January 19	30 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Venerable Pachomius of Kensk (16th c). Martyr Tatiana of Rome (226-235). Saint Sava I, First Archbishop of Serbia (1235). Venerable Martinian of White Lake, Abbot (1483), and Galacteon, his Disciple (1506). Martyr Mertius of Mauretania (284-305). Martyr Peter Apselamus of Eleutheropolis in Palestine (309). Venerable Eupraxia of Tabenna in Egypt (393). Eight Martyrs of Nicaea. Saint Elias the Wonderworker, of the Paradise. Saint Theodora of Alexandria, instructress of nuns (5th c.). Martyr Philotheus of Antioch (ca. 305). Saint Alan ab Erbin, Confessor in Cornwall. Saint Benedict Biscop, Bishop and Abbot of Wearmouth (690), Thirty-eight Monks cruelly martyred in Iona (Ireland) (790).

Please remember in your prayers: Abducted nuns and orphans of Saint Tekla Monastery in Syria, Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria and the Middle East. Bishop Boulos Yazigi, Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Archpriest Leonid, Diane, Abigail.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Olga Prawlocki on her 103rd birthday [January 11] were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Sonia Buttino.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Nina (Kappanadze) Dudek, Nina Tkachuk Dimas, Nina Hula. Nina Chapman, Nina Patterson and Archpriest Jason and Matushka Margaret Kappanadze were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of newly-departed Donna Neal Evans, Scott K. 'Phez' Ray and Benjamin Cristman were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of John Elnicky.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Protopresbyter Pavel Souček were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Christians are being 'deliberately targeted' in the Middle East, says Prince Charles

Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 9:46 (GMT)

The Prince of Wales has said he is "deeply troubled" by stories of persecution in the Middle East. Prince Charles made the comments during a meeting with leaders of churches from the region yesterday.

Accompanied by Prince Ghazi of Jordan, Prince Charles visited the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in Stevenage and the Syriac Orthodox cathedral in west London, where he learned more of the escalating violent conflict in the Middle East.

Religious minorities are especially vulnerable to attack in the region as extremist Muslim groups have seized power in many areas.

In Egypt, members of the Coptic Church are suffering frequent violent attacks from Islamists as many blame them for the downfall of Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi.

Church properties and the homes and businesses of believers have been regularly attacked and robbed, and violations of human rights are common under the weakened and unstable political system.

The situation is similarly grave in Syria, where almost a third of the nation's Christians have fled the country due to fears of increasing attacks. Iran and Iraq are also particularly dangerous places for Christians to live, with Iranian Christians facing arbitrary arrests and Iraqi churches at risk of attacks.

Prince Charles met the families of Middle Eastern Christians who are being subjected to immense persecution, and heard accounts of people being forced to flee their homes, tortured and even killed as a result of their faith.

He later spoke out against the persecution at a reception at Clarence House for religious leaders, calling it a "crisis" and noting that he is "deeply troubled by the growing difficulties faced by Christian communities".

"For twenty years I have tried to build bridges between Islam and Christianity to dispel ignorance and misunderstanding," he said.

"Surely we have now reached a crisis where bridges are being deliberately destroyed by those with a vested interest in doing so.

"This is achieved though intimidation, false accusation and organised persecution including to the Christian communities in the Middle East at the present time."

Prince Charles' comments will be welcomed by individuals and organisations who are urging governments to extend the protection of religious minorities in order to put an end to the escalating human rights abuses.

His words echo those of many who are speaking out against the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and are calling for the international community to intervene.

Baroness Warsi recently raised awareness of the extent of the problem, saying it had become a "global crisis".

"The freedom to practise, change or share your faith or belief without discrimination or violent opposition is a fundamental human right that all people should enjoy," she said.

"Sadly too often around the world that right is denied to people of different religions or beliefs.

"It is vital that we move beyond UN resolutions into practical actions that demonstrate that violence in the name of religion or belief is never justified."

She has also warned that believers fleeing the region in fear of their lives means that "there is a real danger that Christianity will become extinct" in the Middle East, despite it being the birthplace of the religion.

The Prince of Wales concurred, and warned that the elimination of Christianity in the region would be "a major blow to peace".

"Christianity was literally born in the Middle East and we must not forget our Middle Eastern brothers and sisters in Christ," he said.

Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church said: "As we approach the Feast of the Nativity, we are also reminded that this is a time in which many in the Middle East are affected by war and conflict, but as His Royal Highness highlighted today, Christians in the region remain resilient and faithful despite the challenges faced.

"With respect to Egypt, despite numerous attacks on their loyalty, Christians continue to be an integral and stabilising component of their society and have responded graciously to continued and escalating attacks, proving their commitment to a legitimate process of change.

"Believing that there is always hope, we pray for this spirit of collaboration and cooperation to be a springboard to greater advocacy for, and representation of, those who do not have opportunities for their own voices to be heard, but rather rely on us to amplify those voices."

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christians.are.being.deliberately.targeted.in.the.middle.east.says.prince.charles/35098.htm>

The Monk Martinian of Belozersk, in the world Michael, was born in the year 1370 in the village of Berezniko, not far from the Kirillov Monastery. At age thirteen he left his parents and went secretly to the Monk Kirill of Belozersk (Comm. 9 June), about whom many had spoken of to him as being a great ascetic. The youthful Martinian began zealously to imitate his teacher, with whom he dwelt in complete obedience. At the monastery he studied reading and writing, and with the blessing of the monk Kirill, he became occupied with the copying of books. In time Martinian was ordained deacon and then priest-monk. After the death of the Monk Kirill (+ 1427) Blessed Martinian withdrew for silence to a deserted island, situated on Lake Vozha. Several monks gradually gathered around him. The monk Martinian established for them a Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord and introduced a general Ustav [rule] for the inhabitants. Yielding to the persistent requests of the brethren of Ferapontov Monastery, he consented to become hegumen of the monastery and brought it into a brighter condition.

The Monk Martinian rendered spiritual support to Great Prince Vasili Vasil'evich in the difficulties of his time, when his first-cousin Dimitrii Shemyaka illicitly pretended to the Moscow throne. He was always an advocate of truth and justice. Afterwards, upon the entreaty of the Great Prince, the monk accepted upon himself the governing of the monastery of the Monk Sergei of Radonezh.

In 1455 the monk Martinian again returned to the Ferapontov Monastery. The last years of his life he was grievously ill and not able to walk, and the brethren carried him to church. The monk died at age 85. His relics were uncovered in the year 1514 – and the commemoration of the uncovering is celebrated on 7 October.

The Martyr Mertius was a soldier. He suffered in Africa for the Name of Christ during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). The emperor demanded him to offer sacrifice to idols and, receiving refusal, gave him over to torture. The saint suffered fierce torments, not uttering even one moan. He was thrown into prison, where he died from hunger and wounds.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held February 9, 2014, after Divine Liturgy. All those submitting articles to the printed report for 2013 are asked to turn them in before the end of January.

HOUSE BLESSING – At your convenience, please phone or email Father with suggested dates and times for blessing your home.