

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022
NEW MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stikhera of the resurrection in tone 6 (spiral bound vespers book) followed by six stikhera for the New Martyrs

New Martyrs, tone 5:

Rejoice, new martyrs and confessors of Russia,
the adornment of the Orthodox.
lambs of the new slaughter, fellow warriors, and guardians of the faith,
Blameless intercessors for us with God in the latter years,
who in your sufferings appear as emulators of the first martyrs;
O unshakeable pillars of patient endurance,//
entreat God that our souls be granted great mercy.

Rejoice, O glorious passionbearers!
Following in the steps of the martyrs of old,
you contended firmly for the sake of the faith,
in the cruel and grievous times of your land.
And now you rouse all to the glory and praise of God,
Who strengthened your weaknesses and has enriched you with
gifts of the Spirit.//
Ever pray for the salvation of our souls.

O heavenly protectors,
come to us who await the visitation of your prayer,
and deliver us from danger caused by the madness of unbelievers;
for which we are often pursued like prisoners and outcasts,
moving from place to place and wandering in caves and mountains.
have compassion, O all-praised martyrs and confessors, and grant
us relief!

Pacify the storm and extinguish the hostility towards us,//
praying to God Who through you grants to our land great mercy.

tone 6:

O longsuffering archpastor, Father Tikhon,
in a time of terrible godless persecutions,
comforting the true children of the Church of Russia,
with courage you bore the task of standing up for Christ and the
Orthodox faith;
and, dying day by day for the sake of your pastoral service,
you were revealed as a steadfast confessor.//
For this, we lovingly glorify you.

O true shepherd, Hieromartyr Vladimir,

when lawless men compelled you to depart from overseeing the
Church of Russia,
you remained faithful in deed and word to Hierarch Tikhon.
Like a holy sacrifice from Kiev, the mother of Russian cities,
you offered yourself to God, praying for those who were slaying you.//
For this, we willingly glorify you.

O Hieromartyr Benjamin,
as a true son of Christ's Church,
and having heartfelt zeal for her welfare,
you bravely took a stand against the false shepherds
who were striving to steal your flock,
but not fearing the threats and false testimony of the interrogators,
you turned the judgment back upon the head of those who tested you;
and then, by your death, you strengthened Orthodoxy.//
For this we willingly glorify you.

GLORY... New martyrs, tone 5:

O most high Master, glorified and worshipped in Trinity,
take pity on us by the acceptable prayers of your new martyrs,
who in the presence of tyrants boldly confessed You, the One God,
and Your ineffable saving incarnation, O Son of God, from a
Virgin Mother.

***NOW AND EVER...the resurrection Theotokion in tone
6 (spiral bound vespers book)***

Three Readings

The Reading from the Book of Acts. As well as Annas the high priest,
Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the
high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set
them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power or by what name have you
done this?’ then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers
of the people and elders of Israel; If we this day are judged for a good
deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let
it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of
Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from
the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the *stone
which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief*

cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other
name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Now
when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and they perceived that
they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they
realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been
healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when
they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred
among themselves, saying, ‘What shall we do to these men? For, indeed,
that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who
dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it spreads no
further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now
on they speak to no man in this name.’ So they called them and
commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But
Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight
of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but
speak the things which we have seen and heard.’ So when they had
further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing
them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had
been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle
of healing had been performed. And being let go, they went to their own
companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to
them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one
accord and said: ‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and
the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David
have said: ‘*Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?
The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered
together Against the Lord and against His Christ.*’ “For truly against
Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius
Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together
to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be
done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that
with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand
to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of
Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where
they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with
the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the
multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither
did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they
had all things in common. **Acts 4:6-32**

The Reading from the Second Book of Timothy. I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **2 Timothy 4:1-8**

The Reading from the Book of Hebrews. who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in the deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. **Hebrews 11:33-40**

APOSTICHA: all stikhera of the resurrection in tone 6 (spiral bound vespers book)

GLORY... for the New Martyrs, tone 2:

O new house of Ephratha,
splendid and elect region,
O holy Russia,
guard the Orthodox faith,

in which is your confirmation and support.

NOW AND EVER... for the New Martyrs, tone 8

O marvelous wonder;
the Queen of heaven and earth, who has been entreated by the
saints of our land,
has until now covered the Russian land, tenderly enriching the
choir of its people.
O Mighty Sovereign Lady,
cease not to pray for confirmation of the Orthodox faith in Rus'//
and to pour out wonders forever. Amen.

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead,//
glory to You.

New Martyrs, tone 4

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy,
praising her new martyrs and confessors;
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing
princes and princesses,
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of
godless persecution,
they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in
Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 4

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man, //
saving our souls from death.

Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church

Rector: Father Michael Anderson

16903 Espola Rd

Poway, CA 92064

Email: powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org

Office: 858-674-1931