

Transposition of the Sacred Relics of Our Venerable Father Nicephorus, Confessor

Patriarch of Jerusalem

22nd Day of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast — March 13

Saint Nicephorus was a dignitary at the court of the empress Irene (797-802), and then after receiving monastic tonsure, he became known for his piety. In the year 806 he was elevated to the patriarchal throne. The saint was a zealous defender of the holy Icons. When the Iconoclast emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820) came to rule, the saint in 815 was exiled to Prokonnis, where he died in the year 828. In the year 846 the holy relics of Patriarch Nicephorus were opened, and were found incorrupt and fragrant. They transferred them from Prokonnis to Constantinople and placed them for one day in Hagia Sophia (the Basilica of Holy Wisdom), and then transferred them to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The Saint's hands are preserved in the Hilandar monastery on Mount Athos. The saint left behind three writings against Iconoclasm. The main Feast of St Nicephorus is celebrated on June 2, but today we commemorate the finding and transfer of his holy relics.

CROSS-VENERATION TROPARION (Tone 1 – pew book page 223)

Save Your people O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. * Grant victory to Your Church over evil, * and protect Your people by Your Cross.

Troparion of Nicephorus (Tone 8)

You reaped your reward from your patience * unceasing in prayer, always loving the poor constant comforting the needy. * O Blessed and merciful Father Nicephorus, * pray to Christ to save our souls!

Kondakion of Nicephorus (Tone 1)

The patriarchal choir honors your memory with chants and hymns of praise, O Nicephorus. * Transferring your relics inherits your spirit. * So the Church glorifies Christ the King, * the only real Lover of Mankind.

CROSS-VENERATION KONDAKION (Tone 7 – pew book page 224)

No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden, * for the tree of the Cross has come to quench it wondrously. * The sting of death and the victory of Hades have been driven out. * For You, O my Savior, stood and called out to those in Hades: * Enter again * into paradise.

Prokimenon of a Confessor (Tone 7 – pew book page 402)

Let the faithful rejoice in glory shout for joy and take their rest.

*Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise * in the assembly of the faithful.*

Alleluia (Tone 6 – pew book page 403)

*Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord * and greatly delights in His commands.*

*Verse: His posterity will be mighty * upon the earth.*

Communion Hymn (pew book page 403)

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous ones * praise from the upright is fitting.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Concluding Hymn sung once by Priest; twice by people

**Having suffered the Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!
Preterp'ivj za nas Strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas!**

Daily Prayer During The Great Fast

(February 20 through March 31)

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, and Hope of all on land and of those far away at sea; You have established these holy days of fasting by Your law and the prophets as a way for our mortification and repentance. At the proper time, You manifested Yourself in the flesh on this earth, and by Your fast of forty days and nights, You sanctified the practice of fasting and commanded us to follow Your example. As a merciful and gracious God, enable us to continue these holy days of The Great Fast with perfect repentance, with humility instead of hypocrisy, with fervent prayer, with hunger and thirst, with frequent prostrations, and with a contrite heart. Enable us, also, to complete this time of The Great Fast without fault and with a pure conscience, keeping our faith intact and achieving victory over sin. Send an angel of peace to watch over our lives, to protect us from all snares of our enemies, and to assist us in the performance of good deeds. Strengthen us by Your power so that we may accomplish the spiritual works of The Great Fast. Then, with our passions in control and our souls and bodies properly cleansed, we will be worthy to partake, without condemnation, of Your most pure Body and Your most precious and life-giving Blood. For You are the merciful and gracious Lover of Mankind, Who came down to earth to save all; and we give glory to You (+) and to Your Eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Gracious, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.