

Our Venerable Father James, Confessor

Bishop of Catania

30th Day of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast — March 21

Saint James, Bishop and Confessor, was inclined toward the ascetic life from his early years. He left the world and entered the Studite monastery, where he was tonsured. He led a strict life, full of works, fasting and prayer. Pious and well-versed in Holy Scripture, James was elevated to the bishop's throne of Catania (Sicily). During the reign of the iconoclast emperor Constantine V Copronymos (741-775), he was repeatedly urged not to venerate the holy icons. They exhausted him in prison, starved him, and beat him, but he bravely endured all these torments. St James died in exile in the eighth century.

Troparion of James (Tone 2)

Guide of true worship and teacher of purity and piety! * Light of the world and divinely inspired model of monks. * You enlighten all by your teachings like a spiritual trumpet O wise Father James. * Beg Christ our God to save our souls!

Kondakion of James (Tone 4)

You abandoned the world and followed Christ * by mortifying your body, O blessed James. * You were given the anointing of the priesthood, * and have been admitted to angelic choirs. * Pray for us all who bless you!

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.