

The Prologue - November 10/23, 2018

Martyr Orestes

Link: <http://westserbdio.org/en/prologue/689-november-10?tmpl=component&print=1&page=>

This file: http://www.orthodox.net/full-voice/fv_2018+nov-10-martyr-orestes.pdf

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Excellent full life of Orestes, and the revelation given to St Dimitri of Rostov: <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2009/11/saint-orestes-revelation-to-saint.html>

Read the prologue every day.



Partial Summary for November 10

Of course, there are many saints commemorated on this day, but the life of the martyr Orestes is the most compelling.

There are several things about this glorious martyr that are very edifying to the modern soul. We live in an age of disbelief and detachment from things that are holy. Our life is so mundane that most of us have trouble believing that God truly intervenes in the lives of his beloved, every day. As a pastor my experience is that many people read the lives of the saints and believe them to be mythological or even if they believe them to be true, somehow, they don't apply them to their daily life. There is a paralysis in the modern mind that causes us to think that these miracles were things that happened long ago, and that they are no longer part of our daily life.

St. Dimitri of Rostov is a famous Russian saint who compiled a large Menaion, with long lives of saints. When he was compiling the life of St. Orestes, the martyr appeared to him and corrected him about some of his wounds. This is not mythological, but is an example of God intervening in our daily lives. The life of the martyr Orestes is not a myth but is one that has been told by him.

The zeal and courage of the martyr Orestes also encourages us and rebukes us. When he was first threatened with tortures if he was not willing to sacrifice to the idols, Orestes replied to Eparch: **"If you knew the power of the Crucified One,**

you would reject idolatrous falsehoods and worship the true God." How does one know the power of the Crucified One? The only way to know Him is to be crucified like Him¹. We should be crucified to the world, and to our passions and lusts². This is the only way to know the Crucified One, but we moderns tend to believe that if we think something it is enough.

Do not be bewitched by the modern mind and the modern toothless form of Christianity which believes that we can be saved by an idea. That was the major error of the misnamed "Reformation". We are not saved by believing in something. We are saved by crucifying ourselves to our passions and lusts and taking up our cross because we believe *in* Someone. If there is any part of you that is confused about the true religion, or you have trouble feeling God or believing in Him, or troubles with anxiety or any other disturbance of the heart, you can be sure it is because of your sins and your laziness. Even a sinner, who is **struggling**, can know the power of the Crucified One. That is good news for us, since we are all sinners.

After he was tortured in terrible ways and he was left without food and water for eight days, his reply to further threats was as follows: "**I am prepared to endure every pain, having the sign of my Lord Jesus Christ inscribed on my heart.**" His words bring to mind an event from the martyrdom of St. Ignatius the God bearer. After he was eaten by the beasts, someone cut open his heart and inside of it was inscribed "Jesus Christ conquers" in gold. Of course, the meaning of St. Orestes' words is not that there is a golden description in our heart, but rather that we live according to what we say, and we count all things as loss compared to Jesus Christ³. These are good words to contemplate on the American "Black Friday"⁴ appropriately named since so many dive deep into materialism on this day.

The Revelation of St. Orestes the Martyr to St. Dimitri of Rostov

By St. Dimitry Rostov



The Holy Martyr Orestes met his blessed end by being dragged behind a horse, after multiple tortures.

In the year 1685, the author of this Life was preparing it to be printed at the Holy and Great Lavra of the Kiev Caves. One night, during the holy fast before the feast of the Nativity of Christ, when he had already completed this account, he fell asleep for a short while before the beginning of Matins and learned that the saint suffered still more torments than those described in his Life. The Holy Martyr Orestes appeared to him in a dream, and looking upon him with joyful countenance, said, "I suffered more torments for Christ than these!" Then the martyr bared his breast and showed the author of his Life a great wound on his left side which penetrated to his bowels. He said, "Here they pierced me with a spear."

The Saint also showed the wound at his right elbow, and said, "Here they cut off my arm!" The sinews in the wound had all been severed. Next, he showed his left arm, which bore a similar wound at the same place, and said, "They cut off this

arm here." After this he bent over, bared one leg, and showed a wound behind the knee, and then uncovered the other leg, which was wounded at the same place. He said, "My legs were cut off with a scythe."

Having said this, the Martyr stood up, looked the writer in the face, and declared, "You now see that I suffered more torments for Christ than you described!"

The writer began to wonder which Orestes the Saint was, and thought that perhaps he was the soldier Orestes, one of the Five Martyrs of Sebaste [celebrated December 13]. As if to answer his thought, the holy Martyr said, "I am not the Orestes who was one of the Five Martyrs, but he whose life you have just completed."

With that, the bells rang for Matins, and the vision came to an end.

Use the link to the prologue entry for today, and read with humility and longing and learn something that will make you better today:

<http://westserbdio.org/en/prologue/689-november-10?tmpl=component&print=1&page=>

You can read any selection from the Prologue by going to the following link, and entering the date: http://www.rocor.org.au/?page_id=925

Please keep in mind that the dates are the church calendar. Don't pay attention to the day that the calendar shows. If you follow the new calendar, just enter the civil date that you're interested in. If you follow the old calendar, you need to be able to do math if you know the civil (Joe's garage calendar) date. You must subtract 13 days from that date get the church calendar date.

Read the prologue every day.

¹ Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

² Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

³ Philippians 3:8 "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ."

⁴ The day after Thanksgiving, when according to civil "tradition", most stores run sales and large crowds go shopping on the first official day of shopping for Christmas.