

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

SAINT EUGENIA

THE VENERATION OF SAINTS

Every day of the year is dedicated to one or more of the saints of the Church. Commemoration is usually on the date or their ‘falling asleep’ in Christ rather than a birthday. We honor the saints because they were dear to God during their lives on earth and are now with the Lord, having received the crown of glory.

The honor and reverence accorded the saints is sharply distinguished from that given to God. We worship God, never the saints. We venerate and revere the saints, who are Christian heroes, having struggled for faith and virtue, and gave their lives for Christ.

The saints have been honored from the earliest days of Christianity. Early writers attest to this practice. Tertullian, year 240 writes “We offer oblations every anniversary in honor of their natal feasts.” The ancient Liturgies like wise make commemoration of the saints: “That they may offer their untiring prayers to Thee for us, so that, though we place little reliance on our own selves, we may though them presume to come to Thee.” (St. Basil).

Certainly there is a great need in our day to have proper heroes to emulate in life. What better than the countless numbers of saints, coming from every station in life, who have served God faithfully and are now with the Lord?

Our bulletin contains the icon of ST. EUGENIA, martyred in the 3rd century. In Greek, her name means “noble.” She was born into a pagan home, but came to believe in Christ, dedicating her life to Him. She is said to have converted her father Philip, a Roman officer, and the rest of her family. She met a martyre’s death by sword in Rome.