

November 9

**Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs
Onesiphoros and Porphyrios,
and of our Venerable Mother Matrona
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

At "O Lord, to You I call..."

Stichera for the Martyrs (Tone 8)

6. O blessed Athlete, you confessed Christ our God, O martyr Onesiphoros, as you fought with all your might in the tribunal of the wicked. Covered with wounds from the blows, you endured burning by fire over your whole body. Thus the Prince of Life has granted you the crown of victory with His life-giving hand.
5. O Athlete Porphyrios, holy martyr, by the grace and power of the Spirit, in the purple of your own blood you dyed the robe which you bore to reign in the radiance of your splendor with our God, who alone reigns throughout the ages. Ceaselessly entreat Him; implore Him with fervor for our salvation.
4. O praiseworthy martyrs, who suffered your death in a holy way for the sake of the Life of All: when you were stretched out over the burning coals, then dragged by horses, you joyfully reached a good end before God. Thus we glorify both of you, who ceaselessly pray for us, and we call you blessed.

For Matrona (Tone 4)

3. As a friend of wisdom, you subdued the desires of your flesh through the labors of asceticism, O Matrona, and you followed Christ. You dwelt among pious hermits to quench the burning flames of the passions under the rain of your tears, and to enkindle your ardent love for the Creator.
2. You founded a sanctuary for meditation for the salvation of many, since you were a temple of the Spirit, thanks to the purity of your soul. And toward the hardships and works of asceticism, you led a whole army, a saved people, whom you presented to the Lord as an offering; with them, we glorify you in faith.
1. Young women have cherished the Lord, their Bridegroom, following the instructions you laid down. Without regard for the weakness of their flesh, they subdued the passions in the zeal of their spirit in order to enter with you, O Matrona, into the heavenly chamber of the Bridegroom to know joy at all times.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Your womb was able to hold the God whom no space can contain, who for love of mankind became a man like us, taking our human condition from you to divinize it. All-pure one, do not despise my affliction, but make haste to receive me and save me, delivering me from the persecution of the enemy.

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 8*)

1. O Lord, the Apostles loved You sincerely above all things on earth; they counted all things as ashes and waste in order to possess You as their only Treasure. For Your sake, they handed over their bodies to torment. Thus glorified in Heaven, they intercede for our souls.

All: To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses; thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.

2. O Lord, You have glorified the memory of Your divine Apostles on earth. Now as we all gather together in their memory, we glorify You, for You grant us healing through their prayers. At their intercession, the world receives peace and great mercy.

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.

3. All praise and glory to the holy martyrs: they bowed their heads to the sword for the sake of You who bowed the heavens and came down. They emptied out their blood for the sake of You who emptied Yourself and took the form of a servant. Imitating Your poverty, they humbled themselves to death. At their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us in Your great compassion.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Those who were judged worthy to see God incarnate in the flesh proclaimed you to be a Bride and Virgin worthy of the Father and His Divinity, the Mother of the divine Word and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit, O holy one, filled with grace and the fullness of the Divinity!

TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS (*Tone 4*)

Your martyrs, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of their struggle. Armed with Your strength they have vanquished their persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through their supplications, O Christ God, save our souls!

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

TROPARION OF MATRONA (*Tone 8*)

In you, O Mother Matrona, was restored the likeness of God, for you carried Your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away, and how to value the soul for it is immortal. Wherefore your soul is forever in happiness with the angels.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 8*)

O Pure Theotokos, Gate of Spiritual Life, save from dangers those who run to you with confidence to glorify your holy birth-giving for the salvation of our souls.