

A Synaxis of Latin Saints (Plain Reading)

February 11th

On February 11th, we commemorate Saint Caedmon the Hymnographer, a Northumbrian, who worked at the monastery of Whitby in England as a farm-labourer. He was the first English convert to write Orthodox hymns, and was most well remembered the *Hymn of Caedmon*.

Verses

On this day we commemorate Saint Benedict of Aniane. A Visigoth, by name Witiza, he was born in Languedoc in France. In 773 he became a monk at Saint-Seine near Dijon and in 779 founded a monastery in Languedoc by a stream called Aniane. The emperor asked him to oversee monasteries in Languedoc, Provence and Gascony and eventually all those in French and Germany.

On this day we commemorate Saint Gregory II, Pope of Rome. Born in Rome, he was librarian and archivist of the Roman Church, when he was chosen Pope in 715. He is famous for encouraging the spreading of the Gospel among the Germanic peoples, to whom he sent St Boniface and St Corbinian. He restored several Italian monasteries, notably Montecassino. He also opposed Iconoclasm and checked the advancing Lombards.

On this day we commemorate Saint Saturninus, Dativus, Felix, Ampelius, Victoria and Companions. A group of forty-six martyrs in Albitina in North Africa. They were arrested at the liturgy and sent to Carthage for examination. Saturninus was a priest, and with him suffered his four children, Saturninus and Felix, readers, Mary, a virgin, and Hilarion, a young child. Dativus and another Felix were senators. Other names from this group which have come down to us are: Thelica, Ampelius, Emeritus, Rogatian and Victoria, a holy virgin of undaunted courage. The child Hilarion, when threatened by the magistrates while his companions were being tortured, replied: 'Yes, torture me too; anyhow, I am a Christian'. They all died in prison.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.