

# February 16

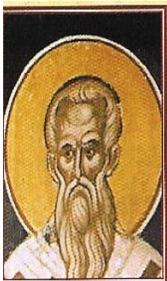
*A Holy Martyr Presbyter Pamphilus and those with him: Deacon Valens, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel and Daniel.*

They suffered in Caesarea, Palestine in the year 308 or 309. St. Pamphilus, a native of Beirut, received a higher education and was the presbyter in Caesarea. He worked much at correcting the Old Testament texts of the Holy Scriptures damaged by copyists, copied the corrections in his own hand and sent them around to those who wished to have them. Together with these he spread the faith in Christ and true enlightenment. During the persecution of Diocletian, St. Pamphilus underwent cruel torture, together with the aging deacon of the Prophet Elijah Church Valens and Paul, a native of Jamnia. After torture all of them were imprisoned for two years and finally were dismembered by the sword together with five young Egyptians, native brothers, who were also held there and suffered during the persecution in Caesarea, while on the return way from Cilicia where they led 130 confessors into the mines. The servant of Pamphilus, Porphyrius, who asked permission to bury the bodies of the holy martyrs and confessed to being a Christian, was burned. Seleucus, the warrior, was beheaded. Theodulus, the starets (elder), was crucified on a cross. One young Christian, Julian, approaching Caesarea, saw the mutilated bodies of the holy martyrs, went up to them and kissed them. Warriors, who saw this, informed the governor about him, and when the young man confessed Christ in the presence of the latter he was burned.

*Kontakion, tone. 4*

**To the frightful tortures prepared for them,  
The courageous sufferers of the Lord,  
Went with joy and unbending determination,  
Having discussed the negligence of the flesh.  
Therefore they obtained eternal glory,  
Ever praying for us, who praise their struggle.**

*Ven. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis*



He was the bishop in Tagrith (Martyropolis or Maiferkat), on the border of the Persian and Greek empires, and was glorified as learned and pious, and wrote about the martyrs who suffered for Christ from the Persian King Shapur (see below). He participated in the Second Ecumenical Council and the Local Council of Antioch (390 A.D.) and assisted greatly in the establishment of the Christian church in Persia. Sent by Emperor Theodosius on affairs to the Persian King, he,

“healed the daughter of the King from possession by an evil spirit”. He died about 422 in Martyropolis.

*Holy Persian Martyrs of Martyropolis*, suffered in Persia during the reign of King Shapur in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Their bodies, during the reign of Theodosius the Lesser, were gathered by Ven. Maruthas, Bishop of Mesopotamia, and translated to Martyropolis (see above).

*Ven. Martyr Roman*. See Jan. 5.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 86-87*  
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