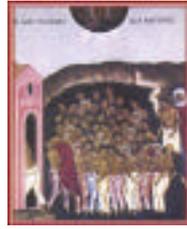


March 9

v. ☩ *The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste who were tortured in a lake. Cyrion (Quirio), Candidus, Domnus, Hesychius, Heraclus, Smaragdus, Eunocius (Eunicus), Valens (Vala), Vivianus, Claudius, Prescus, Theodulus, Euty chius, John, Xantheas, Helianus, Sisinius, Angius, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecdikius (Ecditius), Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Gorgonius, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Leontius, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valerius, Philoctimon (Philoctimus), Severian, Chudion, Aglaius, and Meliton.*



All of them were warriors, distinguished by their strength and courage and suffered for their Christian faith in Sebaste (in Armenia) during the reign of the Emperor Licinius. After being persuaded with kindness and then with threats to reject Christ, they were confined to prison, and there they were subjected to terrible tortures. They stripped them and put them into a lake, covered with ice. Terrible biting cold benumbed the members of the Holy Martyrs; but the valiant long sufferers, being "huddled together in the cold, chanted a hymn to the Lord". To make the torture worse, the torturers built a warm bath on the shore of the lake to tempt the martyrs. One of the forty warriors was tempted and ran to the bath, but at its threshold he fell dead. At 3 o'clock in the morning a light appeared from heaven, which heated the water in the lake and also warmed the Holy Martyrs. At the same time thirty-nine crowns came down from Heaven onto the Holy Martyrs. One of the guards, Aglaius, struck by the courage of the sufferers, believed in Christ and went into the lake. The next day with hammers they broke the legs of the remaining unharmed martyrs. The Holy Martyrs endured all and died with prayers on their lips. Their bodies were burnt and the bones were thrown into the water.

Kontakion, tone 6

**Holy long-suffering Forty Martyrs,
You all left the military life of the world
To unite yourselves to the Master of the Heavens.
Blessed Ones, you proceeded through fire and water, //
Worthily accepting your many crowns of glory.**

Paramoedas: 1) Exodus 43:9-14. 2) Wisdom 3:1-9. 3) Wisdom 5:15-24, 6:1-3.
Matins Gospel: Luke 21:12-19; sel. 106. **Epistle:** Heb. 12:1-10; sel. 331. **Gospel:** Mt. 20:1-16; sel. 80.

See the chapters in the Ustav and Menaion. If the feast of the Forty Martyrs falls: 1) on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Saturday of Great Lent (we sing the service for them, as specified for the feast of the Translation of the Head of the Forerunner); 2) on the Sunday of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th week, or on Monday of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th week (we sing the service after the Head of the Forerunner), 3) on the Wednesday of the 4th week (we sing the service on Tuesday); 4) on the Thursday of the 5th week (we sing the service on Tuesday); 5) on the Saturday of the 5th week (we sing the service during the 5th week).

The Martyr Urpasianus

The Martyr Urpasianus lived in Nicomedia and was a person close to the Emperor Maximian. Not valuing his rank, he removed from himself all distinctions and proclaimed himself a follower of Christ. Maximian tortured him for a long time and, finally, ordered him burned in an iron box, in about the year 295. The ashes of the Holy Martyr were thrown into the sea.

St. Caesarius

The younger brother of Gregory the Theologian, who received a brilliant education in Alexandria, became the physician at the Constantinople court. In the words of St. Gregory the Theologian, St. Caesarius, like the morning star, shone at the imperial court, occupying the first place in wisdom and gentle disposition; he healed many of heavy bodily illnesses, and he delivered many from poverty by his charity. St. Caesarius never exalted his knowledge above others, understanding, that the contemplation of the highest wisdom, holiness and blessedness of God is mastered by a pure heart, instead of by insight of the mind or higher learning. Besides this he studied natural science, not even excluding astrology. He took from them only those things that reminded him and attracted him to the all-wise and all-good Creator of the world. During the reign of Julian he left his position, and on his death he was named the treasurer in Bithynia. After he was wonderfully rescued from the ruins of an earthquake, he left his civil job to devote himself to God and died soon after that (in about the year 369).

The appearance of the icon of the Mother of God: The Word was made Flesh.

On the icon the Mother of God is depicted with the Child Jesus, who is standing naked in her center. The holy icon is known since 1666 in Albazin (on the Amur River). It is now located in the city of Blagoveshchensk (the Kamchatka Eparchy).

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p 0106
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