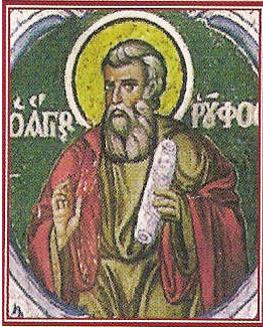


# April 8

## *G. Holy Apostles of the 70: Herodion, Agabus, Asyncritus, Rufus, Phlegon and Hermes and those with them*



St. Herodion, born in Tarsus, Cilicia and relative of Apostle Paul, was the bishop of the city of Patara, where he underwent much travails by the Pagans and the Jews for his zealous preaching of Christ. Having followed Apostle Peter to Rome, he was beheaded on the day Apostle Peter was crucified. St. Agabus was a prophet and predicted a great famine, which occurred during the reign of Emperor Claudius (Acts 11:27-28), and the ordeal of Apostle Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:10-11). St. Rufus was a bishop in the Greek city of Thebes. St. Asyncritus was a bishop in Hyrcania (in Asia), Phlegon was in the Greek city of Marathon and Hermes was in Dalmatia.

"Sowing precious teachings, and uprooting the tares of deceit by grace", they were "unshakeable pillars", "foundations of churches" and "havens of piety". All of them died as martyrs.

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**You were revealed as disciples of Christ  
And all-honorable apostles, O glorious Herodion,  
Agabus and Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon with Hermes,  
Ever pray to the Lord,  
That He grant remission of sins to us,  
Who are singing to you.**

### *St. Celestine (Celestine), Pope of Rome*

He is known as the zealous expositor of the Nestorian heresy. He died on April 6, 432. His relics are in the Temple of St. Praxedes in Rome.

### *Martyr Pausilippus*

During the reign of Hadrian in the 2nd century, he was sentenced after a long period of torture to execution by the sword. On the way to the place of execution the fetters fell from him. Having wonderfully disappeared from his tormentors, he soon died.

### *Our Father among the Saints Niphon, Bishop of Novgorod*

Born in Kiev and from adolescence distinguished by meekness, obedience and humility, he accepted monasticism in the Laura of the Caves. In 1129 elected

bishop of Novgorod, St. Niphon constructed and adorned many temples, reconciled quarreling princes by the power of his word and was a strict advocate of church canon law. St. Niphon died in Kiev in 1156. His relics openly repose in the St. Anthony's Cave. He left the written work "Responses" to the questions of a certain Cyricus. There is a special service with doxology to this hierarch.

*Martyr John the Navigator* after heavy torture for Christ was burned alive by the Turks in 1669.

### *Spanish Icon of the Mother of God*

This icon appeared in 792 and assisted the Spanish King Pelagius in his struggle against the Saracens. The Mother of God is represented on it sitting on a throne with the Eternal Child.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0133-0134.  
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