

April 14

a. Our Father among the Saints and Confessor Martin, Pope of Rome

Born in the city of Tuscany, he went to Rome to complete his education and there he entered into the clergy. Because of his piety and zealousness for the faith he was elected Bishop of Rome in 649 and worked hard for the eradication of the Monothelite heresy. The emperor infected by this heresy, tried to win over St. Martin, but he remained faithful to the true teaching of the dogmas and for this suffered imprisonment on the Cyclades islands for a year. Summoned to Constantinople for trial, he was condemned and thrown into a gloomy prison, where he was tortured, enduring "much grief" for 93 days, and then was exiled to the Taurus Mountains in Cherson, and died there within two years (in the year 655). Today his relics are in the temple of St. Martin of Tours in Rome.

Martyrs (Lithuanian) Anthony, John, and Eustathius

They were brothers, who served at the court of Olgerd and suffered in Vilna in 1347. Turning to Christ, they began to lead a true Christian life. The pagan priest noticed this and informed the prince. The brothers were imprisoned, but even a long stay there did not shake their faith. Then, after severe tortures, St. Anthony was hanged. Soon St. John also accepted the martyr's crown. Struck by the harsh treatment of the Holy Brothers, their relative Kruglets also believed in Christ and was baptized with the name Eustathius. The prince severely tortured St. Eustathius for this and in his powerless rage ordered to have him hanged also. Their relics are in Vilna, in the Holy Spirit Monastery. In 1364 St. Alexis the Metropolitan of Moscow "established April 14 as the day to bless the holy martyrs". In 1826, under the decree of the Holy Synod, the relics of the Holy Martyrs were certified. There is a special service and Akathist for these Holy Martyrs.

Troparion, tone 4

**You who have rejected earthly honor and glory,
Valiant and honorable combatants,
You firmly and courageously suffered torments for the faith,
You have died for the life of all for the Master.
Therefore Christ also gloriously encircles you with a cloud column from
heaven
And honors and crowns you with crowns from the throne of glory:
Standing before Him with the angels, pray to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 3

Released from the fatherly delusion O Saints, you were led to Christ:

**By the diligence of all your souls you put human cleverness to death.
And so attaining the victory of true honor,
Unceasingly pray to our Master for us all.**

Magnification

**We magnify you
Long-suffering Saints Anthony, John and Eustathius,
And we honor your precious suffering,
Who suffered for Christ.**

Martyr Ardalion

He was an actor. For the amusement of crowds of people he played the role of Christian martyrs, and at a play he ended this role by proclaiming himself a Christian. For this he submitted to martyrdom, being burnt on the griddle during the reign of Emperor Maximian.

1000 Martyrs and Azades, the Eunuch.

For their faith in Christ they were killed within the 10 days from Great and Holy Friday until New Sunday in Persia during the reign of King Shapur about the year 341. Having found out that Azades, his favorite, was also killed, Shapur ordered that the persecution be limited to bishops and priests only. See April 17.

Vilna Icon of the Mother of God

It was brought to Vilna, as a token of a parent's blessing, by Elena, the daughter of Ivan IV, at her entry into marriage with Alexander, the Prince of Lithuania, in the year 1495. It is now in the Trinity Monastery in Vilna.

Another Vilna icon appeared in 1341 and is now in the men's monastery in the suburbs of Vilna.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0137b-0138
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