

April 15

7(g) Holy Apostles (from the 70): Aristarchus, Pudens, and Trophimus

St. Aristarchus was the companion of the Apostle Paul, and then was the bishop in the Syrian town of Apamea (see Sept. 27).

St. Pudens was a Roman senator, glorified for his piety, and received into his home the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and subsequently changed his home into a church, which was called "The Shepherd's Home" and in which the Apostle Peter officiated.

St. Trophimus, an Ephesian Greek, was a disciple of the Apostle Paul. (See Acts 19:29; Col. 4:10; Phil. 23; 2 Tim. 4:20-21; Acts 20:4).

All of them were beheaded by the sword in Rome during the reign of Nero.

Kontakion, tone 4

**This honorable apostolic feast is revealed,
Enlightening us,
And dispelling the sinful mist, we call out:
Let the light be revealed and deliverance come.**

Martyr Sabbas

St. Sabbas being a Goth and living in Gothia among an evil and perverse generation was as a star in the world, imitating the saints. He was rightly believing and devout, ready to perform any obedience in righteous work, meek, simple in word but not in mind, spoke for the truth, blocked the mouth of the idolaters; was not proud but behaved as the humble, was silent but not bold with words, and rather zealous for any good work. He "sang in church with great zeal" (some believe, that he was a church singer), did not care about property and possessions except what was necessary, is sober, temperate in all things, is chaste, always fasted, prayed without ostentation, was spontaneous in everything, was decent and did not do anything unpleasant, in a word: he had a pure faith, contributing with love, so that he never wavered in his confidence in speaking about the Lord. Once he openly confessed himself a Christian among the pagans Goths, his fellow countrymen. In the year 372 on Pascha, St. Sabbas was subjected by them to various tortures and, finally, drowned in the river Mussovo (in Wallachia). The commander Soranos in a skiff later transferred his relics to Cappadocia. St. Basil the Great thanked for this in subsequent letters, which have come down to our time (159 and 160 in the Russian translation).

Martyrs Basilissa and Anastasia

Disciples of Peter and Paul, they out of Christian love gathered bodies of martyrs for burial, who suffered for Christ. During the reign of Nero they after being tortured were beheaded. Their relics are in Rome, in the temple of Our Lady "the Peace-Maker".

The Repose of the Great Prince Mstislav Vladimirovich

The son of Monomakh, Mstislav, baptized as Theodore, the prince of Novgorod for 12 years, was specially glorified for his magnanimous, peaceful disposition, and who with courage and love built temples. The Novgorodians loved the kind prince and would not agree for anything to accept another in his place. He died in 1132 (or 1133) in Kiev, where he after the death of his father was the prince and was buried in the Kiev St. Theodore Monastery (closed, probably, by the invasion of the Mongols), which was built by him. The death of the holy prince was marked by miracles. "The Mstislav" Gospel, written on behalf of the prince and given by him to the Annunciation Church in Novgorod, is rather precious because of the accusation of schism: in it the name of Jesus appears up to 80 times with the double vowel in the beginning: "Jisus" or "Jesus".

Mesukevian Martyrs: Suchias and his troops

Converted to Christ by the Apostle Thaddeus (in the first century), they suffered for Christ at the hands of the Alans commander Baramus.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0138-9
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © January 3, 2004. All rights reserved.*