

April 16

f(6) Holy Martyrs Agape, Irene and Chionia

The sisters, virgins, who led a pious life near the city of Aquileia (in Illyria), during the reign of Diocletian were seized and turned over to various tortures. The holy sufferers were frightened "neither by the breathing of wild beasts", "nor by the cutting off of widows, nor by various illnesses". Wonderful signs accompanied the torture of the holy virgins, but the torturers did not learn from them and they burned both Agape and Chionia on a castor, and they killed Irene by firing arrows at her (in the year 304). St. Anastasia, the Deliverer from Bonds, buried their bodies (see December 22).

Kontakion, tone 4

**A brave soul, Irene,
You have encamped by faith, clearly confusing the evil one,
And you have led many people out of darkness to Christ, O Blessed One:
Bearing porphyry from their blood,
Now you rejoice with the angels.**

Martyr Leonidas and those with him: Chariessa, Nice, Galina, Calisa, Nunechia, Basilissa, and Theodora, drowned on the first day of Pascha in Corinth in about the year 258. See March 10.

Martyr Irene, suffered with St. Leonidas, and died by the sword.

Martyr Michael Bourliotes. He was a copper smith and suffered from the Moslems in Smyrna in the year 1772 being beheaded by the sword.

Venerable Princess Theodora.

In the world Anastasia, the spouse of the Nizhniy-Novgorod Prince Andrew Constantinovich, she, when she became widowed, became a nun in the Conception Nizhniy-Novgorod Monastery. Here the Venerable Theodora kept a strict fast, wore a hair shirt, passed her days in works for the benefit of the monastery and at night to plaintive prayer. She was compassionate and merciful. Her example of the holy life attracted very many pious virgins and widows to the monastery. She died at the age of 47 in the year 1378. Her relics are in a hidden place in the cathedral temple of her monastery.

Tambov Icon of the Mother of God

Appearing in the year 1692, the icon now is found in the Temple of the Archdeacon Stephen in Tambov. It was glorified through wonder working, according to oral tradition, for about 20 years of the current century.

The Chernigov-St. Elias Icon of the Mother of God. See March 10.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0139
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