

April 21

A. Holy Hieromartyr Bishop Januarius and his companions: Deacons Faustus (Festus), Proculus (Proclus) and Sossius (Sossus), Reader Desiderius and Laymen Eutychius and Acutius

During the reign of Diocletian, about 305, presented to the court, St. Januarius was sentenced to the severest torture. He remained "unshakable in mind" although he was "cut with a sword and put into the fire, and given to the beast, and imprisoned for many days". Seeing the steadfastness of their shepherd, Saints Faustus and Desiderius confessed Christ and were also taken for torture. They led them to the city of Pozzuoli, Italy, where earlier Proculus, Sossius, Eutychius and Acutius were also arrested for confession of Christ. All of them were given to beasts, but that the beasts did not touch their victims is why many have accepted Christ. The furious torturer ordered the Holy Martyrs beheaded. Their relics were taken to various places. The relics of St. Januarius are now in Naples and stream wonders. All martyrs listed here are mentioned in the service, but that Sossius is called Sossus.

Hieromartyr Theodore of Perga

A warrior from Perga, Pamphylia, "before the unrighteous judgment seat" of the pagans he courageously accused "the idolatrous godlessness" and after fruitless exhortations to renounce Christ, was subjected to various tortures. He was burned on a heated iron plate, thrown into a burning furnace, tied to the tails of wild horses, but the Lord protected him unharmed. Then the torturers crucified St. Theodore on a cross, on which after suffering for three days he died (in the 2nd century). Those who suffered with him were: Dioscorus, a former pagan priest who converted to Christ during the sufferings of St. Theodore, the warriors Socrates and Dionysius and Phillipa (according to the Monthly Menaion-Phillip), the mother of St. Theodore. All these Holy martyrs are mentioned in the service together with Martyr Theodore.

Kontakion, tone 3

**You were adorned with the anointing of the priesthood,
And the blood of martyrdom, O glorious Januarius and Theodore,
And you shine everywhere rejoicing in the highest:
Look down upon us, who come to your temple,
And continually cry out in it:
Preserve us all, praying to God who loves mankind.**

Holy Martyr Empress Alexandra. See April 23. (See page 653.).

Martyrs Isaacius, Apollos and Quadratus

Servants of Emperor Diocletian, converted to Christ by the steadfastness in torture of the Holy Great Martyr George and Empress Alexandra, they accused the emperor of iniquity and cruelty and after torture were beheaded by the sword for this in 303 in Nicomedia.

St. Maximian, Patriarch of Constantinople.

A monk, raised to the patriarchal throne in 431, he ruled the Church for 2 and 1/2 years and died in peace in 434. He was a man of the holy life and liked to live far from temporal cares.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0144a.
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