

April 24

E. Holy Martyr Sabbas Stratelates (i.e. Voivode)

Born a Goth, a Voivode during the reign of Aurelius, St. Sabbas helped a lot with property and advice while visiting imprisoned Christians, encouraging them in their travails. For his zealousness for the Christian faith, he was cruelly tortured: he was beaten, his wounds were singed with fire, and he was thrown in the boiler with boiling tar and then drowned in 272.

Seventy warriors who were struck by the steadfastness of Sabbas during torture converted to Christ and for this were also beheaded by the sword.

Troparion, tone 5

**You abandoned earthly rank and honors, O Sufferer,
You confessed Christ existing as God before lying and tyrannical emperors,
You endured much suffering for His sake, O Glorious One:
Therefore you were crowned with a beautiful wreath of victory
By the King who reigns over all,
With heavenly armies, brightly adorned and standing before Him, O Sabbas,
Pray that He may save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Revealed as an invincible Stratelates,
You conquered the barbarian snares,
And having suffered steadfastly, O Glorious One,
You conquered a multitude of invisible enemies.
Therefore you wove a wreath of victory,
Pray to Christ for us who faithfully honor you,
O All-blessed Sabbas.**

Martyrs Eusebius, Neon, Leontius, Longinus and others with them

Struck by the steadfastness of Great Martyr George during torture, they all believed in Christ. After torture they were beheaded by the sword for this in the year 303. The head of St. Longinus is found in Capua.

Martyrs Pasicrates and Valentine

Born Slavs, they were warriors in Dorostolon, Mysia. For refusal to sacrifice to idols and for confession of Christ after torture and imprisonment they were beheaded by the sword in the year 228.

Ven. Thomas, Fool for Christ

Ascetic and monk of the 6th century in one of the Syrian monasteries, near the city of Antioch, he was buried in the city of Daphne. His relics, marked by wonders, were later transferred to Antioch, where they again were glorified with wonders.

Ven. Elizabeth the Wonderworker

First a nun in a monastery in Constantinople, and then the Hegumena of the SS. Cosmas and Damian Monastery in Constantinople, Elizabeth led a strictly ascetical life. In winter and summer she only wore the same grubby hair shirt, ate only vegetables, not even eating bread, and constantly worked. She cared for the salvation of the sisters entrusted to her, constantly looked after and nurtured orphans, helped the poor and the widows, and defended the downtrodden before the authorities. For this she became worthy of the grace by God to heal illnesses and dominion over impure spirits. She died not earlier than the 6th century nor later than the 9th century.

Ven. Sabbas of the Caves

He practiced asceticism in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves in the 13th century. His relics openly repose in the cave of Ven. Anthony.

Martyr Luke

A tailor by craft, for chastity and refusal to accept Islam, being yet a youth, he was cruelly beaten and then drowned in the sea by the Turks in 1564.

Martyr Nicholas

He suffered from the Turks in Magnesia in 1776.

Molchansk Icon of the Mother of God

According to the Menologion, published by the Synodal Printing House in 1863, this image appeared in the year 7143 (in 1635) and is found in the Molchansk Sofroniev Hermitage (Kursk Diocese), "where also the festival before it is done" (Refer to Monastery Kursk Diocese).