

August 10

C. Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence (Hieromartyr Pope Sixtus II of Rome, Felicissimus and Agapitus, deacons of the Roman church and other with them, suffered in Rome in the year 258 during the reign of Valerian)



St. Sixtus was by birth a Greek and was praised for his learning and piety. For his confession of Christ, he was imprisoned in the Mamertin prison and then was condemned for execution. When he was led to the place of execution together with two deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus, the Archdeacon Lawrence met him and with tears cried out to him: "Father, where are you going without your deacon? When did you offer a sacrifice to God without me?" St. Sixtus prophetically told him, that within 3 days he also would follow him. St. Lawrence donated church property to the poor and soon was turned over to terrible punishment for Christ. After a severe beating with scorpions (thin iron chains with poisoned needles), they put him on an iron grid and burnt him with a slow fire. The holy martyr, "we are strengthened by the power of God", with firmness endured his sufferings sending up thanksgiving to the Lord for them, and by this converted the warrior Romanus and the prison warden Hippolytus to Christ. St. Lawrence was granted the ability of healing, and by the way, more than once restored the sight to the blind from birth. The relics of all these martyrs are in Rome. In the services for this day only the Holy Martyr Lawrence is glorified.

Kontakion, tone 2

**O God-bearing Martyr Lawrence,
The foundation of those who struggle,
While your heart was inflamed with divine fire,
You extinguished the fire of your passions until the end.
In faith you cried out in your sufferings: //
"Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ."**

The Repose of the Blessed Lawrence, Fool for Christ at Kaluga

The Blessed Lawrence underwent his spiritual effort as a fool for Christ in the principedom of Simeon Joannovich of Kaluga. Through a wonderful image he saved the life of this prince from an attack of the Tatars. He died in 1515. The relics of the Blessed Lawrence repose in a hidden place in the monastery named Lawrence after him, near Kaluga (see Kaluga Diocese). Miracles were performed at the grave of the Blessed Lawrence.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p0278
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