

November 15.

c. Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurius, Samonas, and Abibus



Saints Gurius and Samonas were born in Emesa. Tonsured in the desert, they converted pagans to Christ, and for this they were subjected to torture during the Diocletian persecution, locked up in prison, and finally beheaded (in the year 306). St. Abibus, the deacon from the village of Thella, near Ruscia, suffered for Christ in Edessa during the reign of the Emperor Licinius (in 322). These martyrs are called confessors, "for they are chastisers for the nonperformance of mutual agreements". One maiden, when she married, received from her husband an oath of faithfulness and love at the grave of the martyrs, was wonderfully protected by them from afflictions and offences and who frustrated her husband and saved her from death.

Troparion, tone 5

**Having granted to us the miracles of Thy Holy Martyrs,
As an unshaken rampart, O Christ God,
By their prayers confound the counsels of the pagans.
Strengthen the scepters of the Kingdom, //
As Thou only art gracious and the Lover of Mankind.**

(OCA translation)

Kontakion, tone 2

**Having received grace from above, O Wise Ones,
You stood before those in delusion, O All-praised Ones.
Therefore, like the Holy Youths you were delivered from cruel death. //
For, in truth, you are the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world.**

(OCA translation)

Epistle: see Feb. 4. **Gospel:** see Jan. 21.

On all these days we sing the Alleluia. First sing the stichera for the Theotokos, then for the saint.

Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus and Eustochius, were burned to death for Christ during the reign of the Emperor Julian the Apostate.

Martyr Demetrius, born a Slav, in the village of Doad, in Thrace, was beheaded for his fervent confession of Christ, in about 307, during the reign of the Emperor Maximian.

Venerable Quintianus, Bishop of Seleucia, died in the IV Century

Venerable Philip of Rabang founded the Savior-Transfiguration Monastery on the Rabang River, about 32 versts (about 21 miles) from Vologda. He died in 1457. He founded the monastery, which was abolished in 1764 and converted into a parish.

Hypatmen Icon of the Mother of God.

Icon of the Mother of God of the Fragrant Flower

Today this icon is in the Voronezh Protection Cathedral. On it is depicted the Mother of God holding in her right hand the Child Jesus, and in her left hand is a blossoming branch.

Kupiatich Icon of the Mother of God

This wonderworking icon, representing itself as a small cross with a depiction of the Mother of God, was revealed in 1182 in the small locale Kupiatich, Minsk province. Today it is in the Kiev St. Sophia Cathedral.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Manual for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 414-415
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