

December 19

D. Holy Martyr Boniface



Righteous Aglae

He was a servant of a wealthy Roman woman, Aglae by name, with whom he lived a dissolute life. Previously suffering from an affliction of infatuation to a fault, he subsequently "was revealed a confessor and glorious sufferer in the name of the Lord". When his mistress sent him to the East for martyr's relics, Boniface there witnessed the suffering of Christians, accepted the Christian faith and for this he was tortured and beheaded in Tarsus. His companions brought his body to Rome in 290. They enshrined the relics of the holy martyr in the temple they raised up for the purpose.

Kontakion, tone 4

**Holy Crown-bearer, All-wise Boniface,
You offered yourself as a willing sacred unblemished offering,
To the One Who was born of a Virgin for our sake.**

Martyrs Elias, Probus and Ares

Born in Egypt, they suffered for Christ during the reign of Maximin in 308. Having gone to minister to Christian prisoners in Cilicia, they were seized in Ascalon and subjected to cruel torture. After torture St. Ares was burned, and Sts. Elias and Probus were beheaded by the sword.

Martyrs Polyuctus and Deacon Timothy

For their successful conversion of pagans to Christ they were burnt on a wood pile at the beginning of the Fourth Century. The first suffered in Caesarea, Cappadocia, and the latter in Mauritania.

St. Boniface the Merciful, Bishop of Ferentino

He was born in the province of Tuscany, Italy and lived in the Sixth Century. He was glorified for disinterestedness, love for the poor and working wonders.

St. Gregory, Archbishop of the Omirites

He was born in Mediolanum (Milan) where he served the Lord as a deacon. Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia (see Oct. 24), after defeating Dunaan, King of the Omirites in 528, asked Patriarch Asterius of Alexandria that he send a worthy shepherd for the Omirite see. After a revelation from above, Asterius consecrated Deacon Gregory to be the Archbishop of the Omirites. In Tafari, the capital of the Omirite Kingdom (in southern Arabia), St. Gregory converted many people to Christ, built churches and after ruling his flock for 30 years died in peace in 552. St. Gregory while still living became glorified for many miracles.

Ven. Elias of Murom, Wonderworker of the Caves

He was born in Murom and practiced asceticism in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves in the Twelfth Century. His relics repose in the St. Anthony's Cave. In the words of Philaret, Archbishop of Chernigov, Ven. Elias reposes in a prayerful position and irresistibly accuses the schism (Raskol): his first three fingers are joined together and outstretched, but the last two, the fourth and fifth fingers, are folded into his palm. ¹⁾

¹⁾ Some identify Ven. Elias with the famous bogatyr (valiant knight) Ilia Muromets, but there are no firm guarantees for the validity of such an identification.