

March 15

Martyrs Agapius, Publius, Timolaus, Romulus, two Alexanders and two Dionysiuses

They suffered in Palestinian Caesarea in 303. All of them, except for Agapitus and one Dionysius, being present at a bloody performance during a pagan festival during which Christians were tortured, bound their hands and fearlessly declared themselves Christians. Imprisoned after this, they underwent many tortures and died by the sword. Together with them Agapius and his servant Dionysius the Egyptian brought up from Gaza also received this same martyr's crown. The Martyr Publius is not mentioned in the service for this day.

Martyr Nicander

He lived in Egypt and was a physician. During the Diocletian persecution he fearlessly visited imprisoned Christians, treated and comforted them. For this he also died as a martyr: he was skinned alive and, finally, beheaded in the year 302.

Hieromartyr Alexander

He was a priest in Side in Pamphylia in the reign of Aurelian. For spreading the faith in Christ he endured much torture and was beheaded by the sword.

Martyr Manuel of Crete

Taken into captivity as a youth by the Turks, he converted to Mohammedanism, but later he was tortured and beheaded for his confession of faith in Christ on the Island of Chios in 1792.

Ven. Nicander of Gorodno

At the end of the 16th century he founded a monastery by Lake Gorodno, Borovichi District, Novgorod Province in which he was the first rector, setting a high example of asceticism for the brethren. He died in 1603. His relics are in a hidden place in the former St. Nicander Hermitage (now St. Nicander parish, 47 versts [31 miles] from Borovichi).

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p 0112a.
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