

May 14

F. Holy Martyr Isidore, Who is from the Island of Chios

Born in Alexandria, he served as an *optio* (military rank of adjutant) for the island of Chios during the reign of Decius. When the imperial command that everyone offer sacrifices to graven images was issued, Isidore, "burning with zeal", did not begin to execute the will of the Emperor, confessing to be a Christian, and he was turned over to torture. First they began to beat him with ox-hide straps, but the martyr, "with striped wounds" loudly confessed Christ. Then the holy martyr had his tongue cut out, but he even without a tongue, "as an invincible warrior", did not cease to glorify the God, thus putting to shame the "arrogance of the torturers" and destroying the "idolatrour temptation". Then in 251 St. Isidore was beheaded. His relics were transferred to the temple of St. Irene in Constantinople.

Kontakion, tone 4

**You were revealed an outstanding guide for the whole universe,
O Holy One, through your prayers to God:
In like manner we hymn you today,
O Divinely-wise, Most Glorious Martyr Isidore.**

† St. Isidore, Fool-for-Christ, Wonderworker of Rostov

He was born in Germany of wealthy parents and "from youth" had an "undefiled life and merciful reason". Having left his parent's home and "desiring the kingdom of God", St. Isidore distributed "his wealth to the poor", and with the staff of a traveler he passed through many lands and cities. It is not known where he accepted the Holy Orthodox faith (he was brought up in Catholicism), and, finally, coming to Russia and chose to abide in Rostov. Here St. Isidore, enduring "frost and snow and rain and heat" and "the animosity of everyone", he settled in a dry branch hut he built. He chose the "violent and foolish life according to the apostle" for the sake of Christ. St. Isidore the whole time carried out vigilant prayer, not giving in to "sleepy eyelids" and "rest" for his body and before God "ever" "standing in all-night vigil and doxology". By day the blessed one went through the city, doing foolish things. "Imitating the patience of Job of old", the blessed Isidore, in the words of the Holy Church, was even in mortal life like "an angel on earth and a man in heaven". "Having a merciful soul, pure thoughts, a sound heart, an unblemished faith, and a true, unhyprocritical love", he during his life became known for his gift to work wonders. St. Isidore reposed in 1474. They learned about his death when they passed by his hut and sensed a special sweet-smelling odor. They built the Church of the Ascension of the Lord on the place of his burial in the city of Rostov, where his relics now repose in a hidden place pouring forth miracles. The Blessed Isidore was called "Hard-worded" because his words always came true.

Troparion, tone 4

Having been enlightened by divine grace, O Divinely-wise One,

**With much patience and chastity,
You finished well the course of temporary life.
Therefore after death your splendid life made you famous,
For you pour out the grace of healing
To those who with faith hasten to your holy grave,
O Blessed Isidore, pray to Christ-God,
That He will save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**To the martial and marvelous among the righteous,
Who received from Christ the gift of working wonders,
We therefore now offer these words of praise.
But as you have boldness before the Holy Trinity,
Pray to Him to deliver your servants from misfortunes,
That we may call out to thee:
Rejoice O Godly-wise Isidore.**

His synaxis is done in Rostov, by the decision of the local bishop.

Paramoia and Matins Gospel: See Jan. 10. **Epistle:** Gal. 5:22-26, 6:1-2; sel. 213. **Gospel:** Mt. 4:25, 5:1-12; sel. 10.

Martyr Maximus

He was a merchant, but through his own preaching turned many to Christ. During the time of pagans offering sacrifices not only of animals but also of people to idols, St. Maximus began to accuse them of impiety and for this he was seized and stoned in about the year 250.

Ven. Serapion the Sindonite was so named because he wore only fine linen clothes - a sindon. See Apr. 7.

Martyr Mark was a Cretan by origin and in his youth was made a Turk. Then for his confession of Christ was tortured and beheaded by the Turks in Smyrna in 1643.

Martyr John the Bulgarian was tortured by the Turks in 1802.

Terebin Icon of the Mother of God was found in the men's Terebin Hermitage, Tver archdiocese, on the shore of the Mologa River.

Yaroslavl Icon of the Mother of God was revealed in 1823 in Yaroslavl, in the bishop's home.