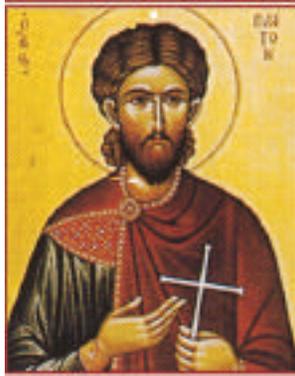


November 18

Holy Martyr Plato



The Holy Martyr Plato suffered for Christ in the city of Ancyra, Galatia during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. For the preaching of the Gospel and the accusation by the idolaters twelve warriors alternately tortured him with severe blows, then held him for three hours on a heated copper bier. Being protected "by the armed pious ones", he "meekly and youthfully " endured "the intolerable flames", "imitating the youths in Babylon". Then they began to beat his body with a sharp iron and, finally beheaded him (in the year 306).

Kontakion, Tone 3

**Your holy memory delights the universe, Plato,
Bringing us together to honor you in our joy.
We praise your great deeds with hymns,
Crying out to you with faith: //
Holy one, save our land from its enemies.**

(Text translation: Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Monastery)

Holy Martyrs Romanus, Deacon, and the youth Barulas

During the persecutions of _hristians during the reign of the Emperor Maximinian, Romanus once met one of the torturers, Asklepiades who went with a crowd of people for a holiday, and began to persuade all to follow Christ and to forsake the idols. The torturer issued orders to seize Romanus and to turn him over to torture. The holy confessor was hanged naked on a tree, beaten with iron rods, torn apart with sharp iron claws; but he even with these terrible tortures did not cease preaching Christ. Having seen among the people the youth Barulas, St. Romanus told Asklepiades that this youth,

though little, has more understanding than the torturer, because he knows the true God. For this they cut out the tongue of Romanus and hanged him (in the year 303). After this the torturer, having turned to the youth, asked him, whom he honors as God. "Jesus Christ, because He is the true God, and your gods are demons", the youth bravely answered the torturer and courageously began to condemn all the vanity of idolatry. The young confessor of Christ spoke so much and so reasonably that he amazed his hearers. The angry torturer inflicted torture on the holy youth, having ordered him beaten with strong rods. The holy youth courageously endured the cruel beatings, but, with oppressive thirst and flowing blood, asked only for a little water to quench his thirst. The mother of the holy youth was among the people surrounding the place of torture, reproached her son in little faith and that convinced him to suffer all for the sake of the Lord and the martyr's crown. St. Barulas after that stopped asking to quench his thirst and quietly endured the ensuing torture. Angered by the patience of the holy youth, Asklepiades ordered him beheaded with the sword. Although the church services hymn the martyr's ascetical efforts of St. Barulas, the holy youth is not known by this name.

Martyrs Zaccheus, Deacon of the Gadarene church, and Alphaeus.

They suffered for Christ in Caesarea, Palestine in the year 303 during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian and were killed by the sword.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp/ (Kharkov, 1900) p. 417
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