

December 13

C. ✠ The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes



These holy martyrs suffered deeply for Christ during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian in Sebaste, Armenia. St. Eustratius, "the accuser of Hellenic thinkers of fables and preacher of Christian divine wisdom", was the magistrate of Satalios. For his belief in Christ, being "relentlessly beaten, and burned in fire, and nailed in his boots with iron, and driven on the way, and enclosed in prison", he was burned to death after these severe tortures. Auxentius, "who with wise words and patience became a martyr exposing godlessness", was presbyter of the Arabian church and, after being "tested by various torments, confessing Christ God", died, being beheaded by the sword. Eugene, "needed by God for good and not needed for torture was saved by his confession", and Mardarius, "the meek dove", were voluntarily led into martyrdom for the sake of Christ and died while being tortured. St. Orestes, "a true and wonderful warrior for every Caesar", who found his faith in Christ by the cross on his chest, after being tortured "was burned on an iron griddle", received "a blessed end to his life and an incorruptible crown". The relics of these holy martyrs repose in Rome.

Kontakion, tone 2

**You revealed the candlestick shining in darkness
To those sitting in unbelief, O Long-sufferer:
For by faith you fearlessly besieged
The reeling enemies like a spear, O Eustratius,
For you are an eloquent rhetor.**

Paramoedas: 1) Ex. 43:9-14; 2) Wis. 3:1-9; 3) Wis. 5:15-24, 6:1-3. **Matins Gospel:** Mt. 10:16-22; sel. 36. **Epistle:** Eph. 6:10-17; sel. 233. **Gospel:** Lk. 21:12-19; sel. 106. **See Dec. 11, the Sunday of the Forefathers.**

Holy Virgin Martyr Lucia

A rich and famous native of Syracuse, she distributed her estate to the poor and made the vow of virginity to the Lord in gratitude for the healing of her mother before the grave of St. Agatha in the city of Catania. Her angry groom informed the governor that she was a Christian, and St. Lucia after being tortured for Christ was beheaded in 304. The relics of the holy martyr were translated from Syracuse to Italy, and then to Metz. Part of them that was in Constantinople was translated to Venice. In the Greek Menaion there is a service for the Holy Martyr Lucia. In our Menaion this service is omitted and only the memory of the Holy Martyr is mentioned.

Venerable Arsenius of Latros, Asia

The legion captain from Constantinople, who was miraculously saved by the Lord during a storm on the sea became a monk and led a strict ascetical life on Mount Latros in Asia Minor near Miletus. For his extraordinary ascetical efforts he was bestowed with the gift of wonderworking. He lived in the Eighth or Ninth century.

Archbishop Gabriel of the Serbs, see August 30.

S. V. Bulgakov, Manual for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0456-0457.

Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © 15 December 2007 Rev.. All rights reserved.