

November 14th

Saint NICHOLAS TAVELIC and his companions, martyrs

Optional memorial

Nicholas Tavelic was born about 1340 in Šebenik in Dalmatia. Ordained as a Franciscan priest, Nicholas became a missionary in Bosnia, where he worked for the conversion of the Balkan peoples, along with Déodat of Ruticinio. They both came to Palestine in 1384 and met two other friars, Peter of Narbonne and Stephen of Cuneo. All four of them preached the Gospel with zeal to the Muslims.

Their confession of the divinity of Christ led to martyrdom, and they died together in Jerusalem November 14, 1391. They were canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

"Martyrdom makes the disciple like his master, who willingly accepted death for the salvation of the world, and through it he is conformed to him by the shedding of blood" (Vatican II, LG 42).

We too are to bear witness to Christ in this country amongst our fellow brothers and sisters. May we have the courage to speak for Christ before men, and He will stand for us before the Father.

The glory of the martyrs celebrated by the Apocalypse (7: 9-17), shows in them the triumph of life over death.

COLLECT

All the saints who followed Christ are happy in heaven. They shed their blood through love for him and now they joyfully celebrate with him for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, you glorified Saint Nicholas and his companions for their zeal in spreading the faith and their death as martyrs. Through their example and intercession, grant us to walk in the way of your precepts, and thus attain to eternal life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Revelation 7: 9-17

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 126: 1-2ab. 2cd-3. 4-5. 6 (R. 5)

R. Those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy.

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

2. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us,^[1]_[SEP]and we rejoiced.

3. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

4. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,^[1]_[SEP]shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1: 12

R. Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

10: 28-33

Jesus thus instructed his disciples: "And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father".
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Gracious Lord, be pleased to bless these gifts and confirm us in the faith that the martyrs Saint Nicholas and his companions defended even at the cost of shedding their blood.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mark 8: 35

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.

or else: John 15: 13

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends, said the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by one and the same bread, on this day when we celebrate the memory of your holy martyrs Saint Nicholas and his companions, we beseech you, Lord, to confirm us in your love and bring us to life everlasting.
Through Christ our Lord,