

December 19

Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Boniface

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 5)

6. O Apostles, you are like sharpened arrows sent forth throughout the whole world by the Mighty One. You swiftly and wisely blunted all the terrible fiery darts of the demons as you banished idolatry and taught the faith to all. You made them sheep of the flock of Christ our God, the true Chief Shepherd, who sent you forth, O blessed ones, into the midst of wolves, so that you could tame their fierceness by means of the Faith.
5. Disciples of the Incarnate Word, who dwelt among men in the greatness of His love and truly assumed their nature in order to deify it, you wisely followed in His divine footsteps. You imitated His poverty, counting all things as loss. Renouncing even a second tunic, you took neither a staff nor traveling bag on your way; and now, O glorious Apostles, you rejoice in your inheritance of the treasures of Heaven.
4. By your intercession before the Lord, O blessed Apostles, deliver us from the storm of temptations, the fatal babbling of unholy heresies, the evil intent of the demons, the cruelty of wicked men, tempests and storms, the gnashing of teeth and every other punishment. Entreat Him that by our abstinence and labors, we may acquire the reward of virtue, the inheritance of the Kingdom and great mercy!

For Boniface (Tone 4)

3. Desiring the glory which belongs to the martyrs, O Boniface, athlete victorious in so many struggles, you

courageously suffered your torments with your attention fixed on that blessedness where there is no pain. O blessed martyr, you sought to receive the heavenly reward and, in the dwelling of Paradise, unfading Light and eternal life.

2. Torn by iron hooks, cruelly pierced all over, burned by molten metal, you withstood the most horrible tortures. Finally, through beheading, you joyfully entered into the divine choir of the martyrs. Thus we celebrate your feast each year, O martyr Boniface, companion of the angels in Heaven.
1. You were sent on a mission as the servant of Aglais; but she received you back as a holy master on your return, O Boniface, for you had overcome the passions, royally triumphed over the wicked tyrants, cast the Enemy to the ground, and received the crown of a conqueror. Thus, building a resplendent shrine, she placed your relics there to honor your exploits.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Knowing that you gave birth to the just and good Judge, O all-pure Virgin, I, who am defenseless and fallen, beg you not to allow me to be condemned on the awesome Day of Judgment. May I be placed on the right hand in the company of the elect, thanks to the goodness of your Son.

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. O disciples of the Savior, witnesses of the mysteries of Christ, You proclaimed the One who cannot be seen and who has no beginning, as you said: "In the beginning was the Word!" You were not created before the Angels;

nor were you taught by men, but by the Wisdom from on high. Therefore, since you have confidence, we entreat you to intercede for our souls in the presence of the Lord.

All: To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses; thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.

2. In melodious hymns, let us sing to the Apostles of the Lord: armed with the Cross, they brought an end to the error of idolatry and are seen to wear the crown of victory. At their prayers, have mercy on us, O Lord!

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.

3. In your unshakable resolve, you never denied Christ, O holy martyrs, as you endured the most terrible torments. You triumphed over the arrogance of the tyrants and kept the faith, whole and entire, as you passed from earth to Heaven. By the confidence you have in the presence of God, pray that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Hail, O full of grace, Mother of Christ our God: the King of Glory revealed Himself to you and the Holy Spirit overshadowed you. By the confidence which you have before Him, intercede on our behalf for the salvation of our souls.

TROPARION OF BONIFACE (*Tone 4*)

Your martyr, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of his struggles. Armed with Your strength, he has vanquished his persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through his supplications, O Christ God, save our souls!

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 4*)

O Virgin Theotokos, we acknowledge that the Word of the Father, Christ our God, was incarnate of you, the only pure one, the only blessed one. Wherefore we sing to you a hymn of praise and we exalt you.