



ST. GELASIOS THE MIME
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΓΕΛΑΣΙΟΣ Ο ΜΙΜΟΣ

FEBRUARY 27

NAME _____ GRADE _____

Gelasios the Mime (c. 297)

February 27

Patronage:

Venerated in:

Eastern Orthodox Church
Roman Catholic Church (August 25)

Relics:



Gelasios was from the village of Mariamne near Damascus. He was a comic actor who worked in a series of plays that mocked Christianity. In a performance at Heliopolis of Syria, he played the part of a catechumen (someone who was learning about being a Christian), in a play about the Christian's Mystery of Holy Baptism. As the actor was dunked into the waters of the "baptismal font", the audience laughed. A miracle occurred at that moment. Gelasios felt changed as he emerged from the waters.

As the play continued, Gelasios dressed in white as the newly-illuminated baptized Christian, he shouted to the audience, "I am a Christian. When I was under those waters, I was changed. I am now ready to be martyred for Christ!" The rest of the cast knew that those lines weren't in the script and were shocked. The audience realized that he wasn't joking and that he meant every word of his public confession. Infuriated, they dragged Gelasios out of the theater and stoned him to death. His relics were gathered by the Christians who witnessed the stoning and returned back to Mariamne. A church was built over the martyr's tomb.

By some accounts, it is believed that these events took place in Rome, Italy, and that he was tortured and beheaded by the crowd.

<https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/02/baptism-and-martyrdom-of-comedic-actor.html>

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-gelasius-of-rome/>

http://books.google.com/books?id=PPsAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA443&lpg=PA443&dq=Gelasius+the+actor+of+Heliopolis&source=bl&ots=a8h5dleQSp&sig=Rqr8PrvXo-K-0NB63CreNXaSsjc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=110pVMGyO_b_sAStrIKwAw&ved=0CCsQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=Gelasius%20the%20actor%20of%20Heliopolis&f=false

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