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ST. PANTELEIMON THE GREAT MARTYR & HEALER
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΤΕΛΕΙΜΟΝ Ο ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΑΜΑΤΙΚΟΣ

JULY 27

NAME _____ GRADE _____

Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer

(c.275-305)

July 27

Patronage: invoked in the Mystery of anointing the sick (Holy Unction), at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the sick / protector of soldiers

Venerated in:
Eastern Orthodox Church
Oriental Orthodox Church
Roman Catholic Church
Anglican Church

Relics:
holy skull is found in the Monastery of St. Panteleimon,
Mount Athos, Greece

Panteleimon was born in Nicomedia (present-day northern Turkey). His father, Eustorgius, was a pagan and his mother, Eubula, a Christian. His mother taught him about the Christian faith and he was baptized by St. Hermolaus (July 26).

He became a physician, and practiced in a philanthropic manner, with compassion and generosity, healing many more through his prayers than by his medicine. He dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated everyone without charge. He would also visit prisoners, who were usually Christians, and healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of this charitable physician spread throughout the city. All the inhabitants went only to Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. He was asked to sacrifice to idols to disprove the charges against him. He boldly confessed he was a Christian. He suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors had no hope, should be brought before the emperor. A paralytic for many years was brought in, and the pagan priests invoked their gods without success. Before the emperor's eyes, Panteleimon healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The enraged Emperor Maximian executed the healed man and ordered fierce tortures on Panteleimon. God appeared to the saint to strengthen him before his sufferings. Throughout the tortures, he remained unhurt and denounced the emperor.

The emperor had Panteleimon brought to the circus to be eaten by wild animals, but they went up to him and licked his feet. This enraged Maximian once again, and he ordered for Panteleimon to be beheaded. He was led to and tied to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became like soft wax and inflicted no wound. As Panteleimon completed his prayer, a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling his name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom.

Upon hearing this voice, the soldiers fell to their knees and begged for forgiveness from the martyr. They did not want to continue with the execution, but Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor's command, otherwise they would share the same fate. The soldiers tearfully executed Panteleimon in 305. The olive tree that the saint was tied to became covered with fruit when the saint was beheaded. Many that were there to witness his death believed in Christ.

His parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), but he was baptized Panteleimon ("all-merciful") because of his great compassion. He is considered the highest amongst the Unmercenary Physicians.

A beautiful church dedicated to St. Panteleimon is located on Mount Athos in Greece.



icon - <http://full-of-grace-and-truth.blogspot.com/2009/07/st-panteleimon-great-martyr-and.html>

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<http://www.abbamoses.com/months/july.html>

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