

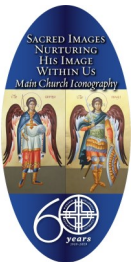
Holy Great Martyr Prokopios

July 8



The Holy Great Martyr Prokopios was born to a Christian father and pagan mother who gave him the name Neanius. Having received an excellent secular education, he quickly advanced in government service. When open persecution against Christians began, he was sent to Alexandria with orders to mercilessly persecute the Church of God. On the way to Egypt, Neanius had a vision of Jesus. A divine voice exclaimed, “Neanius, why do you persecute Me?” Neanius asked, “Who are you, Lord?” And he heard an answer, “I am the crucified Jesus, the Son of God.” At that moment, a radiant Cross appeared. Neanius felt spiritual happiness in his heart and was transformed into a follower of Christ. He became favorably disposed towards Christians and fought against the barbarians. His mother went to the emperor to complain that her son did not worship the ancestral gods. Neanius was summoned, where he was solemnly handed the decree of Emperor Diocletian. Neanius quietly tore it up before the eyes of everyone and was thrown into a dark prison. A light shone in the prison, and Jesus Christ Himself baptized the suffering confessor, and gave him the name Prokopios. Repeatedly, they demanded St. Prokopios renounce Christ, and subjected him to tortures. The fiery faith of the martyr brought down God’s abundant grace on those who witnessed. The new procurator, Flavian, sentenced Prokopios to beheading by the sword. By night, Christians took up his much-tortured body, and with tears and prayers, they committed it to the earth. This was the first martyrdom at Caesarea.

Apolytikion: You were lead towards heavenly piety, and rejoiced to follow Christ, as Paul, O boast of Martyrs, Prokopios. Therefore by the power of the Cross, you were perfected excellently, and deposed Belial. Save those who praise you with fervor from his evil, unscathed.



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