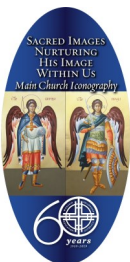# Martyr Mamas and his parents

September 2

The Holy Great Martyr Mamas was born in Paphlagonia, Asia Minor, in the third century, of the pious and illustrious Christian parents, Theodotus and Rufina. The parents of the saint were arrested by the pagans for their open confession of their faith, and locked up in prison in Caesarea, in Cappadocia.

After Saint Theodotus died in prison, his wife Saint Rufina, died after giving birth to a premature son. She entrusted him to God, beseeching Him to be the Protector and Defender of the orphaned infant. A rich Christian widow named Ammia, took the boy into her home and raised him as her son. By means of his personal example, he converted many to the faith.

Eventually, he was arrested and subjected to cruel torments, but the saint's will remained unbroken. Even the wild beasts would not touch him. Finally, one of the pagan priests struck him with a trident. The saint, mortally wounded, went into a small stone cave, and gave up his spirit at the age of fifteen.

Apolytikion: Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received the prize of the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons; strength less presumption. Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

**For further inquiries contact a member of the Iconography Committee or the church Office.
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Iconography Committee Members:
Peter Stamatis, kpstamatis@hotmail.com   Eva Economy, econoe2@aol.com
Maria Karkazis, mk.70@hotmail.com   Anthoula Tsiampas, atsiampa@hotmail.com
or any of the dedicated iconography committee members