

THE CHAPLET OF
SAINT GORGONIUS
OF NICOMEDIA

Martyr, † c. 304 A.D.

In memory of the forgotten martyrs of Diocletian's household:

St. Peter Cubicularius · St. Dorotheus · St. Migdonius

Feast Day: September 9

Opening

Sign of the Cross

In nómine Patris, et Filii, et Spíritus Sancti. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

V. *Deus, in adiutórium meum inténde.*

R. *Dómine, ad adiuvándum me festína.*

(V. O God, come to my assistance. R. O Lord, make haste to help me.)

V. *Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spíritui Sancto.*

R. *Sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sácula sæculórum. Amen.*

(V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.)

Credo (Symbolum Apostolorum)

Credo in Deum, Patrem omnipoténtem, Creatórem cæli et terræ. Et in Iesum Christum, Filium eius únicum, Dóminum nostrum: qui concéptus est de Spíritu Sancto, natus ex María Virgine, passus sub Póntio Piláto, crucifíxus, mórtuus, et sepúltus: descéndit ad ínferos; tértia die resurréxit a mórtuis; ascéndit ad cælos; sedet ad dèxteram Dei Patris omnipoténtis: inde ventúrus est iudicáre vivos et mórtuos. Credo in Spíritum Sanctum, sanctam Ecclésiám cathólicam, Sanctórum communiónem, remissiónem peccatórum, carnis resurrectionem, vitam ætérnam. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried: He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty: from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Pater Noster

Pater noster, qui es in cælis: sanctificétur nomen tuum: advéniat regnum tuum: fiat volúntas tua, sicut in cælo, et in terra. Panem nostrum quotidiánum da nobis hódie: et dimítte nobis débíta nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitóribus nostris: et ne nos indúcas in tentatiónem: sed libera nos a malo. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Ave Maria

Ave María, grátia plena, Dóminus tecum: benedícta tu in muliéribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus. Sancta María, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatóribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostræ. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Collect of St. Gorgonius

From the Roman Missal, September 9

Latin

Sanctus tuus, Dómine, Gorgónius sua nos intercessióne lætíficet: et pia fáciat sollemnitáte gaudére. Per Dóminum nostrum Iesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

English

We beseech thee, O Lord: that thy blessed Martyr Gorgonius may at all times gladden us with his intercession; and cause us ever to rejoice in the devout observance of his festival. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who being God, lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Section I — The Companions

3 beads — one for each man named with Gorgonius

Bead 1 — Petrus Cubiculárius

He served in the emperor's own chamber, and was the first to be exposed and tortured for his faith. His name is nearly lost to time.

V. *Sancte Petre Cubiculári,*

R. *Ora pro nobis.*

(V. St. Peter Cubicularius, R. Pray for us.)

Bead 2 — Dorotheus

An imperial chamberlain who would not stay silent at the sight of injustice. He shares in a martyrdom the world no longer remembers.

V. *Sancte Dorothee,*

R. *Ora pro nobis.*

(V. St. Dorotheus, R. Pray for us.)

Bead 3 — Migdonius

An official of the household who stood with his brothers to the end, and vanished with them into obscurity.

V. *Sancte Migdóni,*

R. *Ora pro nobis.*

(V. St. Migdonius, R. Pray for us.)

Gloria Patri

Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Section II — The Martyrdom of St. Gorgonius

The main body — 9 beads in 3 groups of 3, tracing the arc of his witness

On each of the nine beads, the following versicle is said, drawn from the Common of Martyrs (Ps. 115:15) — the same text the Church uses whenever a martyr's own witness has no proper words of his own, as is the case here:

V. *Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini:*

R. *Mors Sanctórum eius.*

(V. Precious in the sight of the Lord: R. Is the death of His saints.)

Group 1 — The Household

1. Gorgonius held a place of honor and trust in the household of Diocletian.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.
2. He served faithfully, his Christian faith hidden but unshaken.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.
3. He watched as the emperor moved to root out believers from his own court.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.

Group 2 — The Protest

4. He saw Peter Cubicularius stripped and tortured before the household.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.
5. Rather than stay silent, Gorgonius spoke in protest alongside Dorotheus.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.
6. His protest revealed him, and he was seized as a Christian.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.

Group 3 — The Witness

7. Gorgonius was tortured for refusing to renounce Christ.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.
8. He was strangled to death at Nicomedia in the year 304.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.
9. His body and memory were carried across centuries — to Rome, then to Gorze — until nearly all trace was lost.
Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini: Mors Sanctórum eius.

Gloria Patri

Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spirítui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Closing — Against Forgetting

1 final bead

Lord, You remember every sparrow that falls, and every name written in the book of life, even those the world has let slip away. We ask that St. Gorgonius, and his companions Peter, Dorotheus, and Migdonius, be forgotten no longer — and that we who pray this chaplet become instruments of that remembering.

V. *Sancte Gorgóni cum sóciis tuis,*

R. *Oráte pro nobis.*

(V. St. Gorgonius, with your companions, R. Pray for us.)

Gloria Patri

Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sáecula sáeculórum. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Closing Collect (original composition)

Latin

Deus, semper amans et indúlgens, concéde nobis ne umquam obliviscámur sancti Gorgónii sociorúmque eius ex antiquitáte — viri fortis et ardéntis, qui vitam suam pro fide et Ecclésia sacrificávit. Concéde ut ex eius exémplo hanc lectionem discámus: fidem deféndere plus vita ipsa valére. Cum eius corpus diu oblivióni tráditum sit, ánima tamen eius et memória adhuc vivunt. Per Dóminum nostrum Iesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sáecula sáeculórum. Amen.

English

Ever-loving and forgiving God, let us never forget St. Gorgonius and his companions from antiquity — a brave and passionate man who sacrificed his life for the faith and the Church. Let us take from his example the lesson that defending the faith is worth more than life itself. Though his physical body is long forgotten, his soul and memory live on. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Sign of the Cross

In nómine Patris, et Fílii, et Spíritus Sancti. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Total: 3 + 9 + 1 = 13 beads, plus opening versicles and prayers, the Collect of St. Gorgonius (opening and closing), a Gloria Patri at each of the three section breaks, and the Sign of the Cross at the start and end. The versicle “Pretiósá in conspéctu Dómini” is drawn from the Common of Martyrs and Psalm 115:15, chosen because it is the Church’s own liturgical answer to a death history has otherwise forgotten.