

**DISCIPLINE, COMMITMENT & PERSEVERANCE**

**A fourth century saint is featured today on our bulletin. GREAT MARTYR PROCOPIOS was born in the Holy land to a Christian father and a pagan mother. From an early age he is said to have lived in great purity and abstinence.**

**As he grew, Procopios began his career in the military under the cruel Emperor Diocletian. Being a soldier, he was sent to control uprising of disgruntled peoples. It was during one such activity that he is said to have seen a vision of the Cross, and hear a voice saying: “. . . fight not against My servants, lest thou die.” His conversion to Christ was completed shortly thereafter, and Procopios the soldier of the pagan emperor became the warrior for Christ.**

**In fact, he became a reader of the Church at Scythopolis in the Holy Land. It wasn't long before the soldiers of Diocletian arrested him as a Christian. It was while on a trip to Caesarea that he was taken at the gates of the city and brought to the room of the governor, Flavian. The governor tried to persuade him to sacrifice, but Procopios with a loud and sure voice confessed that there was but ONE GOD, the Creator of all things.**

**He was taken out of the city and executed with the sword. The account of his martyrdom is given by Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea. Procopios is regarded as a great martyr, much in the fashion of another soldier of ancient times, St. George.**

**The passing of centuries have failed to dim the esteem in which the Great Martyr Procopios is held by the Orthodox Church. Much change has come to the world since his day, but the love of a man for the Lord and his desire to serve Him faithfully has not changed.**