



**Icon of Saints Cyriacus and his mother Julietta -  
Epep 15**



# St. Cyriacus

## The Youngest Martyr

**A** long time ago there lived a remarkable child. His name was St. Cyriacus. He lived with his father and mother in a city called Iconium in Asia Minor.



St. Cyriacus' mother and father loved our Lord Jesus Christ very much and taught him how to be a good Christian. Since he was an infant he would say, "**I am a Christian.**" St. Cyriacus' mother was very beautiful and she loved to help the poor. Her name was St. Julietta. When St. Cyriacus was only one, his father died and went to heaven. This left St. Julietta alone to take care of her young son.

When St. Cyriacus was three years old, evil men began to be rulers where he lived and they wanted to kill all Christians. St. Julietta, afraid that her son may fall into the hands of evil men, left where they lived and went to a town called Tarsus.



Unfortunately when she reached Tarsus, the evil governor of her hometown was there for a visit. Certain people told him about the young Christian woman and how she tried to run away from him. The governor ordered that they arrest her and bring her to him along with her young child.

The governor ordered that St. Julietta worship stone idols if she wanted to live. He said that the gods were in these



stone statues. St. Julietta answered, “What you are saying is so ridiculous that a three year old could not accept it.”

The governor looked at the little boy holding his mother’s hand and said, “Let’s then ask your child.”

The Lord God in heaven caused the young child to talk as if he was a grown up. St. Cyriacus said in a strong, firm voice, **“Your gods are made of stone and wood, which was created by the God of Creation, then carved by the hands of men, who were also created by God. There is no other true God except the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Those around the young child were amazed at what he said but the governor was angry and embarrassed. He ordered that the mother and child be tortured until they agree to worship the idols. But God was with them and neither St. Julietta nor St. Cyriacus suffered from the torture they were put under.



This so amazed the others who witnessed the abuse that it caused many people to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and many became Christians. Finally the governor ordered that they be put to death and they received the glorious crowns of martyrdom for their faith and courage.

St. Cyriacus is considered the youngest martyr in our Church. He became a martyr when he was three years old. We celebrate his martyrdom on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Coptic month Epep.