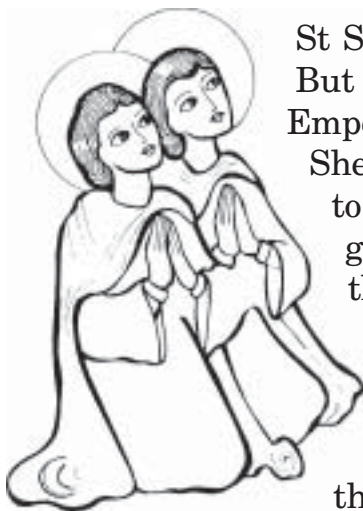




# The Martyrdom of St. Sarah and Her Two Sons

The Twenty-fifth Day of Baramoudah

**D**uring the life of our great pope St Peter, the Seal of the Martyrs, there lived a woman of great faith in Antioch. She was the wife of a man whose name was Socrates, and her name was St Sarah. Socrates was one of the governors of Emperor Diocletian. Socrates denied our Lord Jesus Christ in order to please the emperor. He told St Sarah that he was afraid of the Emperor but in reality his heart had already betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ.



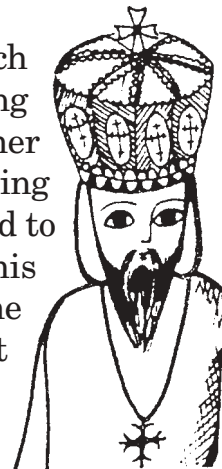
St Sarah had two sons whom she wanted to baptize. But because she was afraid of her husband and the Emperor, she took them to be baptized in Alexandria. She had to take a ship to Alexandria. God had willed to reveal the greatness of her faith as a lesson to the generations to come. Therefore, while she was on the ship, God brought forth a great wind that would have shattered the ship to small pieces.

Sarah was afraid that her two sons would drown before being baptized. She prayed a long prayer then made a cut on her chest. She took some of her blood and anointed her sons, making the sign of the cross on their foreheads and over their hearts. Then she dipped them into the sea three times saying, “In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”



After she had done this the winds died down and a great calm came on the sea and the ship completed its voyage to Alexandria.

When she arrived, she took her sons and went to the church and handed them to Pope Peter. He was to baptize them along with the children of the city. When the Pope carried one of her sons to be baptized, the water froze. The Pope went on baptizing the other children and came back to her sons. Again he tried to dunk them into the water but the water froze. When this happened a third time he asked St Sarah about her story. She told him about all that had happened to her at sea and what she did for her sons. Pope Peter glorified God and said, "It is indeed one baptism." (For you see we are all baptized into one Body, for which our Lord Jesus Christ is the head.)



**Pope Peter**

When the woman returned to Antioch, her husband denounced what she had done. He told the emperor that his wife was an adulteress. The emperor called her in and reproached her saying, "Why did you go to Alexandria to commit adultery with the Christians?" The saint answered him, "Christians do not commit adultery and do not worship idols, and after this do what you wish, for you will not hear another word from me."

The emperor asked her, "Tell me what you did in Alexandria?" When she didn't answer him, he ordered her to be burned with her two sons. They tied her hands behind her back and placed her two sons near her and burned all three of them.

She delivered her pure soul along with her sons, and they all received the crown of martyrdom.

May their prayers be with us. Amen.