

Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus

The Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus in Syria were appointed to high positions in the army by the emperor Maximian (284-305). When he learned that they were Christians, Maximian commanded that the martyrs be stripped of their rank, and then dressed them in feminine clothing. They were led through the city with an iron chains around their necks, and the people mocked them. Then he summoned Sergius and Bacchus to him again and in a friendly manner advised them not to be swayed by Christian fables, but to return to the Roman gods. The saints refuted the emperor's words, and demonstrated the folly of worshiping the pagan gods. The emperor commanded that they be sent to the governor of the eastern part of Syria, Antiochus, a fierce hater of Christians. Antiochus had received his position with the help of Sergius and Bacchus. "My fathers and benefactors!" he said. "Have pity on yourselves, and also on me. I do not want to condemn my benefactors to cruel tortures." The holy martyrs replied, "For us life is Christ, and to die is gain." The enraged Antiochus ordered Bacchus to be mercilessly beaten, and the holy martyr surrendered his soul to the Lord. They shod Sergius with iron sandals with nails in their soles and sent him to another city, where he was beheaded with the sword.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

1407 30th Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368

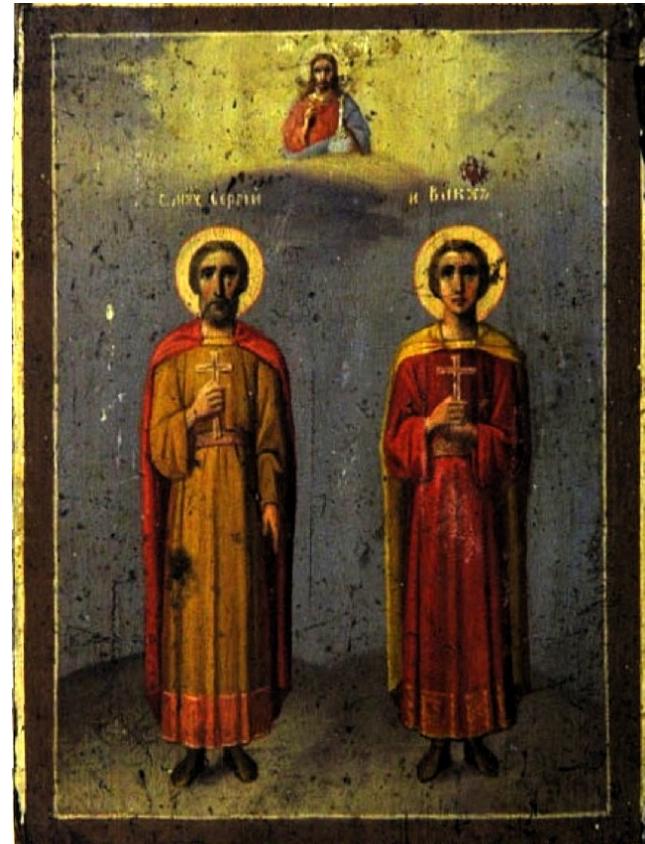
Archpriest Nicholas Kime, Rector

360-385-0585

www.OrthodoxPortTownsend.com

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, October 7th, 2018

Sts. Sergius and Bacchus

19th Sunday after Pentecost

