



**The Holy Martyrs Menas, Victor, and Vincent
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on November 11.**

Saint Menas, who had Egypt as his fatherland, contested in Cotyaeion of Phrygia in 296, during the reign of Diocletian and Maximian. A soldier distinguished for his valor in war, he renounced his rank and withdrew to devote himself to ascetical struggles and prayer in the mountains. Filled with zeal and more than human courage, he presented himself in the midst of a pagan festival in Cotyaeion and declared himself to be a Christian. After terrible torments, which he endured with astonishing courage, he was beheaded. His martyrdom in Egypt became a place of universal pilgrimage; evidence of ancient journeys to his shrine have been found as far away as Ireland. The glory and refuge of the Christians of Egypt, he has been revealed to be a worker of great miracles and a swift defender of all who call upon him with faith; besides all else, he is also invoked for help in finding lost objects.

Saints Victor and Stephanie contested in Damascus in 160, during the reign of Antoninus Pius. The pagans arrested Saint Victor as a Christian and cut off his fingers, put out his eyes, and beheaded him. As Saint Stephanie, the wife of a certain soldier, and a Christian, saw Victor's nobility in his sufferings, she loudly cried out to call him blessed and to say that she saw two crowns prepared, one for him, and one for herself. She also was taken, and was tied to two palm trees which had been bowed down; when they were released, she was torn asunder.

Saint Vincent is the most illustrious of the Martyrs of Spain. Because of his virtue, he was ordained deacon by Valerius, Bishop of Saragossa, who, because of his advanced age and an impediment in his speech, commissioned Vincent to be a preacher of the Gospel. In 303, the impious emperors Diocletian and Maximian sent Dacian to Spain as governor, with an edict to persecute the clergy. Saint Vincent was brought with Bishop Valerius to Valencia; the bishop was sent into exile, but the holy deacon was tortured on a rack, and after suffering other cruel torments, gave up his soul into the hands of God on January 22 in the year 304.

Dismissal Hymn of Saint Menas. Plagal of First Tone
Let us worship the Word

WITH great valor of soul, thou didst strive in Martyrdom, * and having fought the good fight, O divine Great Martyr Menas, * thou from heaven hast received the gift of miracles; * for God hath shown thee to the world * as a worker of great signs and He made thee our protector * and a swift help in afflictions and ever-vigilant defense from harm.

Dismissal Hymn of the Martyrs. Fourth Tone
Be quick to anticipate

WITH songs of praise, let us hymn the steadfast athletes of Christ: * divine Victor, Vincent and the noble Stephanie, with Menas the all-glorious. * Having crushed the foe in sundry ages and countries, * they rejoice together, glorified in the Heavens. * Have mercy, O Christ Saviour, on all, by Thy Great Martyrs' prayers.

Kontakion of the Martyrs. Plagal of Fourth Tone

AS godly-minded athletes and Martyrs who strove for piety, * the Church doth honor and glorify on this day the godly contests and travails * of Menas the prizewinner, * the noble Victor, brave Vincent, and valiant Stephanie, * and lovingly doth cry out and glorify Christ, the Friend of man.

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SAINT MENAS ON A HORSE

www.copticmuseum.gov.eg/english/internal/gallery

The historical record relates an appearance of St. Menas in July, 1942 the evening before the decisive battle at El Alamein, the Saint's native village.