

St. Ignatius of Antioch

Feast Day: October 17

Ignatius was a bishop in Antioch in the first century under the reign of Emperor Trajan. This emperor created laws that forced Christians to renounce their faith in Jesus under punishment of death. Many Christians showed great courage and died instead of rejecting Christ. Ignatius refused to give up his Christian religion and thus was sent to Rome to be eaten by lions in the Colosseum. On his way to Rome he did not lose hope and even wrote letters to other Christians encouraging them to stay strong in their faith. Ignatius understood that his ultimate goal was to enter Heaven and be with Jesus forever. The Holy Spirit gave him the courage he needed to reach this goal, even in the face of fear.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, pray for us!

