

Teacher's Guide for St. Stephen the First Deacon and Martyr

- 1.) Review the major points of St. Stephen's life, ministry, and martyrdom. See the Book of Acts, chapters 6 & 7, also, the St. Stephen brochure.
- 2.) In reviewing these, take care to point out the following:
 - a.) He was especially chosen.
 - b.) He was ordained - laying on of hands by the Apostles themselves.
 - c.) The Armenian Church still ordains deacons and priests in the same way, that is by the laying on of hands.
 - d.) He was fearless and brave in carrying out his duties.
 - e.) Even when he was being martyred, St. Stephen prayed for forgiveness for those who were killing him.
- 3.) Point out that the word "martyr" is from a Greek word meaning "witness".
- 4.) Have your class suggest ways that they can witness for our Holy Faith and for Christ. Remember, St. Stephen witnessed by giving his life.
- 5.) Since St. Stephen is regarded as the patron saint of all deacons and altar servers, review the names of some of the deacons and altar servers in our parish.
- 6.) Point out that one way that our deacons and altar servers witness is by serving at God's Holy Altar during the Divine Liturgy.
- 7.) Have the students congratulate our deacons and altar servers on their saint's day, the Feast of St. Stephen, the First Deacon and Martyr.

ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST DEACON AND MARTYR

Study Guide

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- 3.) Point out that the word "martyr" is from a Greek word meaning "witness".
- 4.) Have your class suggest ways that they can witness for our Holy Faith and for Christ. Remember, St. Stephen witnessed by giving his life.
- 5.) Since St. Stephen is regarded as the patron saint of all deacons and altar servers, review the names of some of the deacons and altar servers in your own parish.
- 6.) Point out that one way that our deacons and altar servers witness is by serving at God's Holy Altar during the Divine Liturgy.
- 7.) Have the students congratulate the deacons and altar servers on their saint's day, the Feast of St. Stephen, the First Deacon and Martyr. In 1979, his feast day is on Tuesday, December 25.

Additional Activities

- 1.) Have the class prepare a newspaper front page presenting:
 - a.) the life of St. Stephen
 - b.) the way he was chosen by the Apostles
 - c.) the words spoken in his defense
 - d.) his martyrdom
 - e.) any aspect(s) of the account in chapters 6 and 7 of the Book of Acts
- 2.) Have the students outline and list the major points of St. Stephen's speech in the Book of Acts, chapter 7:2-53.