

JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> —

## JUSTIN THE MARTYR



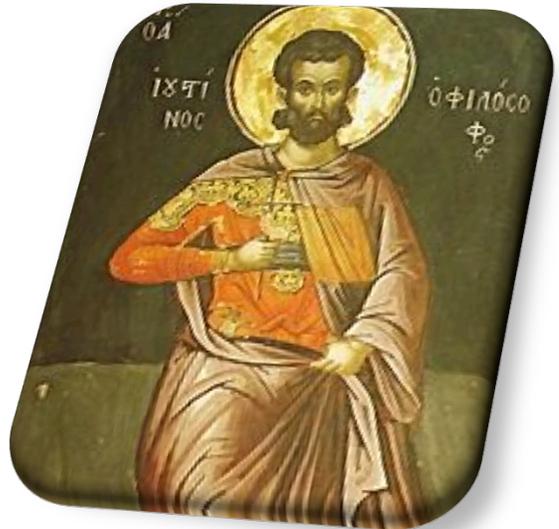
In a far away land, in a time long ago, there lived a well-educated man named Justin. He yearned for greater wisdom and traveled great distances to find it.

He searched and he searched. He wasn't quite sure what he was hoping to learn but he knew he wasn't finding it. Some people said Justin would find wisdom by how he behaved. Others said he would find wisdom in mathematics or through mysticism. Justin liked all of their ideas but something just wasn't right. He kept searching.

One day, while walking along the sea and listening to the waves crash against the shore, an old man appeared next to Justin. The old man began telling him about Jesus. Justin was convinced there was no greater wisdom than Christianity and became a Christian himself. His search was over.

Justin always had a love for learning but he especially loved learning about God. He loved God so much that he taught other people about Christianity too. But...this was a dangerous time to teach others about Jesus. Some people did not like Christians and were mean to them. Justin was putting his life in extreme danger teaching others about Jesus. He didn't care. He knew how much he loved Jesus and that was all that was important to him.

Justin often talked to others about God and tried to convince them to become Christians themselves. A man named Crescens was upset with Justin because Justin was a better debater than himself. Crescens told the emperor that Justin loved Jesus more than him. The jealous emperor had Justin killed. Justin became a martyr



that day - which means Justin was willing to die instead of worshipping someone other than God.

## CELEBRATING NAME DAYS WITH CHILDREN

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### 1. Attend Liturgy

### 2. Bake artoclasía:

Children love to pour in the ingredients and dig their hands into the dough while attempting to knead it. Let them carry it to church to be blessed all while building wonderful memories and traditions to pass along to their own children.

### 3. Icon Study:

Place their icon in their small hands and talk about the story it tells them.

What is Saint Justin holding? (A cross)

What does the cross tell us? (He was a martyr.)

### 4. Saints as Teachers:

Our patron saints are examples for us. How can we use our patron saint's life as a guiding beacon for our own salvation?

What did Saint Justin teach us by his actions and faith? (Some possible answers from our kids: Learning about Jesus is important. Standing up for our belief in God can potentially be very difficult. Teach others about God.)

How can we learn more about Jesus? (Our Bible, going to church, listening to Father, listening to mom and dad, etc.)

How can we stand up for our belief in God? (Say prayers before our meals even when we're not at home, explain our faith to our friends, etc.)

How do we teach others about God? (Invite our friends to come to church with us, give an Orthodox children's book as a gift, etc.)