



April 9, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It seems appropriate that as we enter into the Sacred Triduum, we were able to open our altar today, Holy Thursday. I am happy to say that we were able to discover who the relics in our altar belong to: St. Martin and St. Placidus, both martyrs for the faith. As you can see in the photos on the following page, the relics are covered by a small stone in the altar which is plastered in. To remove the box, we had to scrap away the plaster. Once we removed the box, and thankfully found the label for who the relic box contained, we placed the relic box back into the altar and resealed the stone with black grout. It is wonderful to finally discover this lost knowledge and to be able to have such wonderful examples of the faith with us as we pray. I hope you will consider looking the saints up to find out more information about their lives. In the meantime, here is a quick synopsis of these saints' lives.

St. Placidus, the martyr (not to be confused with St. Placidus the disciple of St. Benedict) was said to have been killed by pirates or possibly under the persecution of Emperor Diocletian. He was said to have been killed with 30 other martyrs on that day. His feast day is October 5. St. Martin, not be confused with St. Martin of Tours, was pope from 649-655. He was arrested by the Emperor Constans II for his staunch defense of the faith against the Monothelism heresy. After his arrest he was exiled to Cherson, a region that today includes much of western Turkey. He died shortly after his exile and his feast day is celebrated on April 13.

St. Martin and St. Placidus, pray for us!

God bless you,

Fr. Aaron



Altar stone



Scraping plaster

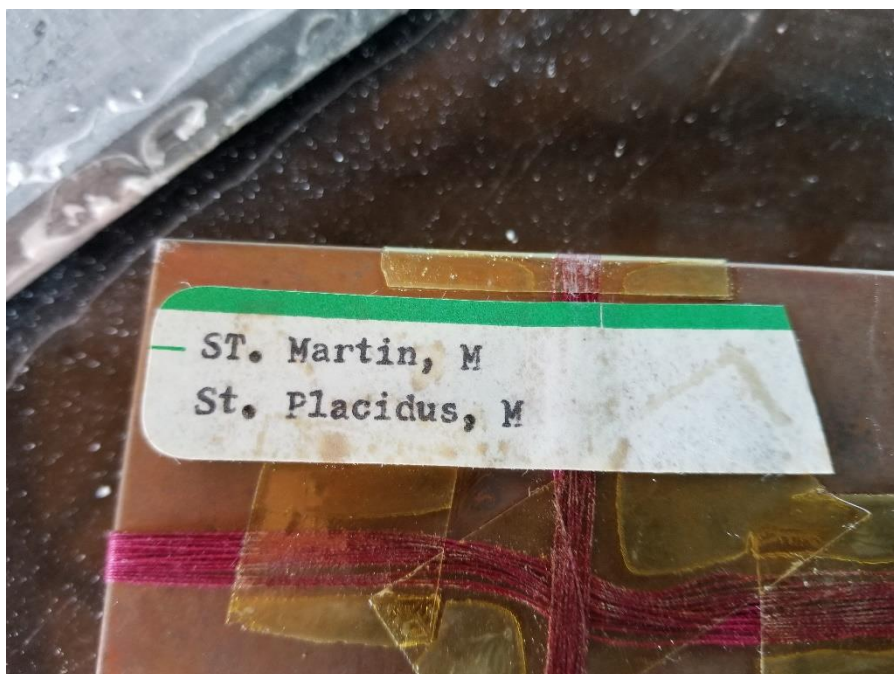


Relic box in the altar



Relic box removed from the altar





Our saints



Using tape to lift the stone



Resealing the relic into the altar



St. Martin



The martyrdom of many saints including St. Placidus

