

Summary :

Pionius was prelate of Smyrna during the 1st half of the 3rd c. During the persecution of Decius in 250 AD he was arrested and became a martyr. His memory is celebrated by the Eastern Church on March 11th and by the Western Church on February 1st.

Date and Place of Birth

End of the 2nd c. or 1st half of the 3rd c. AD

Date and Place of Death

250 AD

Main Role

Prelate, martyr

1. Life-action

The priest Pionius was an arduous defender of Christianity, who did not hesitate to declare and advertise his faith even in front of the public of Smyrna and the city's notables. During the persecution of Decius, on the 23rd of February in 250 AD, the day when the memory of Saint Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna who had met his martyrdom in 156 AD, was celebrated, Pionius was arrested in Smyrna. He was imprisoned and tortured, but during the entirety of his incarceration he continued preaching and strengthening the faith of the weaker ones. Finally he died on the pyre.

His memory is celebrated by the Eastern Church on March 11th and by the Western Church on February 1st.¹ The main source on the life and martyrdom of Pionius is the martyr text of Pionius.² Another text, the one referring to the martyrdom of [Polycarp](#), attributed to Pionius, most probably belongs to the early 5th c.



1. Eusebius, *Historia ecclesiastica* 4.15.46-47.

2. Musurillo, H. (ed.) *The Acts of the Christian Martyrs* (Oxford Early Christian Texts), Oxford 1972, p. 137-167.

Bibliography :

	Ferguson, E. – McHugh, M.P. – Norris, F.W. (eds.), <i>Encyclopedia of Early Christianity</i> , London – New York 1990
	<i>Acts of the Christian Martyrs</i> , Musurillo, H.A. (ed.), Oxford Early Christian Texts, Oxford 1972

Webliography :

	The Martyrdom of Pionius and his Companions http://users.drew.edu/ddoughty/Christianorigins/persecutions/pionius.html
	Η κοινωνική προέλευση των χριστιανών μαρτύρων http://users.lar.sch.gr/npavlou/martyres.htm