

## Nov. 12, St. Josaphat Kuncewicz

Gerelyn Hollingsworth | Nov. 12, 2009 NCR Today

Today is the feast of [St. Josaphat Kuncewicz](#) [1], "an Eastern Rite bishop . . . held up as a martyr to church unity because he died trying to bring part of the Orthodox church into union with Rome."

"[His favourite pious exercise](#) [2] was to make a poklony (i.e. a reverence) in which the head touches the ground)" while saying [the Jesus Prayer](#): [3] **Panie Jezu Chryste, Synu Boga, zmi?uj si? nade mn?, grzesznikiem.**

"On 12 November 1623, an axe-stroke and a bullet brought Josaphat his martyr's crown.

"His bloody body was dragged to the river and thrown in, along with the body of a dog who had tried to protect him. . . . in 1867 Josaphat became the first saint of the Eastern church to be formally canonized by Rome."

An [image](#) [4] of St. Josaphat.

[More](#) [5] about the saint from the web site of St. Josaphat Parish in Cheektowaga, New York.

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### Links:

[1] [http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=71](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=71)

[2] <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08503b.htm>

[3] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus\\_Prayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Prayer)

[4] [http://www.stjosaphats.org/images/StJosaphat\\_byzantine.jpg](http://www.stjosaphats.org/images/StJosaphat_byzantine.jpg)

[5] <http://www.st-josaphat.com/Josaphat.htm>