

# THE CROSS.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

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## Weekly Calendar.

- August 6. Sunday, IX aft. Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ
7. Monday, S. Cajetar, Conf.
- 8 Tuesday, SS. Cyriacus, Largus and Smaragdus, Martyrs.
9. Wednesday, S. Emygdus, Bishop, and Martyr.
- 10 Thursday, S. Lawrence, Martyr.
11. Friday, S. Sextus, II. Pope and Martyr.
12. Saturday, S. Clare, Virgin.

## The forty Martyrs of Sebaste.

These Holy Martyrs suffered at Sebaste, in the Lesser Armenia, under the Emperor Licinius, in 320. They were of different countries, but enrolled in the same troop; all in the flower of their age, comely, brave, and robust, and were become considerable for their services. St. Gregory of Nyssa, and Procopius say, they were of the thundering legion, so famous under Marcus Aurelius, for the miraculous rain and victory obtained by their prayers. This was the twelfth legion, and then quartered in Armenia.—Lysias was duke or general of the forces, and Agricola the governor of the province. The latter having signified to the army the orders of

the Emperor Licinius, for all to sacrifice, these forty went boldly up to him, and said they were Christians; and that no torments should make them abandon their holy religion. The judge first endeavoured to gain them by mild usage: as by representing to them the dishonour that would attend their refusal to do what was required, and by making them large promises of preferment and high favor with the Emperor in case of compliance.— Finding these methods of gentleness ineffectual, he had recourse to threats, and these the most terrifying, if they continued disobedient to the Emperor's orders, but all in vain. To his promises they answered, that he could give them nothing equal to what he would deprive them of; and to his threats, that his power only extended over their bodies, which they had learned to despise when their souls were at stake. The governor, finding them all resolute, caused them to be torn with whips, and their sides to be rent with iron hooks. After which they were loaded with chains and committed to jail. After some days, Lysias, then general, coming from Casarea to Sebaste, they were re-examined, and no less generously rejected the large promises made