

December 12

D. † Our Ven. Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus



He was born on the island of Cyprus of simple peasants and in childhood was a shepherd. At a mature age he entered matrimony and had children. In his family life he imitated the high example of the Old Testament Patriarchs. After a short time his wife died and he with a lot of eagerness still turned to acts of piety. For his wise humility and Christian simplicity he was elected Bishop of Tremithus. The Lord awarded St. Spiridon the gifts of insight and wonderworking for his virtuous life.

Once, during a famine, a poor farmer asked one unmerciful rich man grain for his livelihood, promised to return it with interest after the harvest. The rich man demanded some gold as security for the grain. The poor man told his sorrow to St. Spiridon. The hierarch calmed the poor man and let him go home. But, not having gold, he took a snake, and through prayer turned it into gold, brought it to the poor man who gave it as security so that after the harvest he could redeem the security of this pledge and have it returned to him. When, after the harvest, the farmer redeemed the gold from the rich man and brought it to his hierarch, then the hierarch while in the presence of the farmer through prayer turned this gold back into a snake.

St. Spiridon participated in the First Ecumenical Council in which in a simple speech and with wonderworking power countered the insincere words of the lying defenders of Arianism and converted one master of pagan philosophy to the Christian faith.

While the hierarch was at the Council, his virgin daughter Irene died. When the hierarch returned home one woman informed him in tears that she gave Irene one valuable thing for protection. The hierarch, not finding this thing anywhere in the house, went to the grave of the dead one and asked her as if she were alive where she hid the protected thing. Irene, as if waking up from a deep sleep told him where she put the protected thing. Then the hierarch «again spoke to her: sleep more, O Daughter, ultimately the Lord will be with you all in the general resurrection. And fear will be on all the former, for you wondered and were awed about the glorious wonder of this. The Saint discovered the secret place for the hidden thing, and returned it to that woman".

Another time under a tearful request to the hierarch from "a barbarian woman", he raised up her dead son. But "that woman died from joy". Then the hierarch, after a prayer, cried out to the dead one: "arise"! "She rose up as if from sleep".

St. Spiridon died in about the year 348. The relics of St. Spiridon repose on the island of Corfu. His right hand is in Rome.

Troparion, tone 1

**You were revealed as a champion of the First Council;
A wonderworker, Our God-bearing Father Spiridon:
For you exclaimed to one dead in the tomb
And you transformed a serpent to gold.
And when you sang your holy prayers,
You had angels serving with you, O most Holy One.
Glory to Him who gave you strength!
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Inspired by the love of Christ, O Most Sacred One,
And giving wings to your mind through the radiance of the Spirit!
You found divine vision through your deeds, O God-pleasing One,
Becoming a divine oblation,
Asking Divine Illumination for all.**

Epistle: Heb. 13:17-21; sel. 335. **Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

Hieromartyr Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem

During the reign of Emperor Severus he was the Bishop of Cappadocia and about the year 203 he was imprisoned for his confession of Christ. In 212, having arrived in Jerusalem for the veneration of the holy places, he was elected co-administrator with the aging Bishop of Jerusalem Narcissus. St. Alexander governed the Jerusalem Church for 38 years and died as a martyr, being imprisoned during the Decius persecution in about the year 250.

Martyr Razumnik, Reader of the Roman Church

After being tortured he was beheaded for accusing Emperor Aurelian of serving idols. His Roman name was Synesius; his Greek name was Synetos.

Repose of the Ven. Therapontes of Monza

Ven. Therapontes undertook monasticism in the Kostroma Elevation of the Cross Monastery. From here, seeking silence, he left for the Monza River and at its confluence with the Kostroma River he built the Annunciation Monastery (closed and converted to a parish in 1764), in which he practiced asceticism until his death in 1595. He became known for his gift of wonderworking and before his death predicted a lean year for 1601. His relics repose in a hidden place in former monastery but now parish church (the Annunciation Cemetery on the Monza).

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0455-0456
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