

February 17

z.  *Holy Great-martyr Theodore Tyro*



A warrior in the city of Amasea, in the Pontus Diocese, during the persecution of Maximian he together with other Christians was forced to deny Christ and to offer sacrifices to idols. Having refused to carry this out, Theodore was subjected to severe torture and then thrown into prison. Here while praying, he was calmed by the wonderful manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ. After some time the martyr was released from prison and again was forced to deny Christ with different forms of torture. Finally, seeing the inflexibility of the martyr, the ruler sentenced him to death by fire. St. Theodore by himself without trembling ascended the pyre, and with prayers and praises gave his soul to God, about the year 306. He was buried in the city of Euchaita (today Merzifon, in Asia Minor), then his relics were transferred to Constantinople in the temple in his name; his head is in Gaeta (in Italy). Fifty years after the death of St. Theodore, the Emperor Julian the Apostate, wishing to defile Christian fasting in the first week of the forty-day fast, each day secretly ordered that the blood of the sacrifices to the idols be sprinkled on the food provisions sold in the markets in the Constantinople Eparchy during the first week. St. Theodore appeared to the Archbishop of Constantinople Eudoxius and ordered him to notify all Christians not to buy the defiled provisions in the markets and to use as food koliva, i. e. boiled wheat with honey. In memory of this event the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the great-martyr on the Saturday of the first week of Great Lent; on the eve of this Saturday on Friday in the liturgy at the Prayer before the Ambo a molieben with the canon to the martyr is served and the koliva is blessed.

Troparion, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith.

The Holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the still waters of rest.

Consumed in the fire, he was offered up as a sacrifice to the Trinity. //

At his intercessions, O Christ our God save our souls.

(1992 OCA Yearbook translation)

Kontakion, tone 8

**Having accepted in you heart, as a shield, the faith of Christ,
You trampled down the adverse powers, O Greatly-suffering One.
Therefore, you have been eternally crowned with a heavenly diadem,
As one invincible, O Theodore.**

(1992 OCA Yearbook translation)

The Epistle: 2 Tim. 2:1-10; sel. 292. **The Gospel:** John 15:17-27, 16:1-2; sel. 52.

The uncovering of the Relics of Martyr Minas Kallikelada (i. e. the Eloquent) took place during the reign of Basil the Macedonian (867-886) according to the instruction of the martyr in a dream to one god-fearing man. See December 10.

St. Mariamne

After the death of her brother, the Apostle Philip, she preached the Gospel in Lycaonia, where she died in peace.

Auxivius. Born in Rome, he was the disciple of the Evangelist Mark and was the bishop in *Solon*, Cyprus, where he died in 102, after leading his flock for fifty years.

Martyr Theodore the Byzantine

He came from the village Neokhori, near Constantinople, and in childhood was seduced into Mohammedism. Upon his return to Christianity, the Turks after subjecting him to terrible tortures hanged him in Mytilene in 1795.

The Venerable Theodosius the Bulgarian and His Student Romanus

They struggled ascetically first in Vidine, in the St. Nicholas Monastery, and then he settled near Ternovo and there they founded a monastery. The Venerable Theodosius was especially glorified for his defense of Orthodoxy against the Bogomil heresy and the Judaizers. He was laid to rest in peace in Constantinople, November 27 1362. His disciple Romanus, after the death of his guide, became the rector of the monastery founded by them.