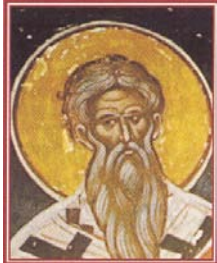


February 25

F. Our Father among the Saints Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople



Coming from a famous family, he occupied a rather high civil position and was one of the best imperial counselors. For his god-fearing life and zealously for Orthodoxy, he was unanimously elected in the year 784 to the Constantinopolitan see. He "was never without liturgical dignity even to death". At his insistence Irene called the Council in Nicaea in the year 787, which forever condemned the heresy of the iconoclasts. The hierarch was a father to the needy and orphans, a comforter to the grieving and an advocate of the downtrodden. He built hospices and hospitals and always firmly stood for the truth. He died at a very old age in the year 806, and was buried in the Pontus Wall in Constantinople, in a monastery he founded in honor of all martyrs.

Kontakion, tone 3

**Having explained the doctrines of the church to the Orthodox,
And O Blessed One,
Having taught all to venerate and worship the honorable icon of Christ,
You vanquished the godless iconoclastic heresy.
Therefore let us cry out to you:
Rejoice, O Wise Father Tarasius.**

Hieromartyr Riginos, Bishop of Skopelos practiced asceticism on the island of Skopelos in the Aegean Sea and died in about the year 355

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p 0095a
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