

April 27

B. † *Holy Hieromartyr Simeon, Kinsman of the Lord.*



The son of Cleopas, the brother of St. Joseph the Betrothed, the second bishop of Jerusalem, one of the 70 Apostles, he labored much in proclaiming Christ. He directed the Church of Jerusalem for 40 years. About the year 107, after various tortures he was crucified on a cross at the age of 125 years. He is glorified by the Church, as "a kinsman of Christ", "a steadfast disciple", "wonderful wonderworker, all-radiant beacon, leader of the lost", and an "honorable unshakeable pillar of the church".

Troparion, tone 1

**As a kinsman of Christ, O High Priest Simeon,
We also sacredly praise the steadfast martyr,
Who overcame temptation, and embraced the faith:
Therefore celebrating your all-holy memory today,
We receive forgiveness of sins through your prayers.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Like a most brilliant star,
The church which today possesses the divinely eloquent Simeon,
Radiantly cries out:
Rejoice, O Crown of honored martyrs.**

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16; sel. 131. **Gospel:** Mt.13:54-58; sel. 56.

Ven. Stephen of the Caves, Bishop of Vladimir in Volhynia

A disciple of Ven. Theodosius and later the Hegumen of the Monastery of the Caves, after leaving the Hegumenate, he built a new monastery on a spur of the Caves Mountain on a site called Klovo, but named it after the Blachernae Temple. In 1091 Ven. Stephen was installed as the bishop of the city of Vladimir in Volhynia. Directing his flock, he set himself as an example of meekness, charity and purity of life and labored much for the conversion of the inhabitants of Volhynia to Christianity. The hierarch died in the schema in 1094. His incorrupt relics are on the bema of the Vladimir Dormition Cathedral.

John, Hegumen of the Cathari (i.e. the pure ones)

Having suffered for veneration of holy icons during the reigns of Emperors Leo and Theophilus, he died in exile on the island of Aphusia about the year 832.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0151.
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