

May 5

A. *Holy and Glorious Martyr Irene*



The daughter of the governor of Mageddon (in Macedonia), while yet a youth, being protected "by the love of Christ", she began to hate "the pagan gods and their soulless images" and was baptized by Priest Timothy. Having refused marriage, she began to convince her parents to accept the Christian faith. Licinius the father of the martyress at first listened favorably to the words of his daughter, then he became indignant with her and when she refused to bow to idols, he threw her under the feet of wild horses. Not having touched the martyress, the horses rushed to Licinius and knocked him down to death. When, after the prayer of the martyress, Licinius returned to life and accepted Christ with all his family, and with him 3,000 others believed. After this Martyr Irene, "afame with the splendor of virginity" began bravely to preach Christ and for this was exposed many times to cruel torture. According to the order of Governor Sedekiah, they threw Martyr Irene into a pit of snakes, and then they tried to saw her in two, and then tied her to a miller's wheel. The torture of Irene was accompanied by wonderful signs which caused many to come to the faith in Christ. So, the snakes did not touch the holy martyress, the saws did not harm her body, the miller's mill did not turn. The torturer Vauodon accepted Christ and was baptized. In all Irene converted more than 10,000 pagans. When the Lord indicated to Irene the day of her death, she departed to a certain mountain cave in Ephesus, the entrance of which was filled with rocks by her request. In Constantinople, a few magnificent temples were constructed in memory of St. Irene (see Jan. 29).

Kontakion, tone 4

**Adorned with the goodness of virginity, O Virgin,
You became all-beautiful in your struggle, O Irene,
You were empurpled with the flow of your blood,
Having destroyed the temptation of godlessness:
Therefore you also received the prize of victory
From the hand of your Creator.**

Ven. Micah

Disciple of the Venerable Sergius of Radonezh, living in the same kellia with him, he attained the highest moral perfection and for meekness of soul and purity of heart he was worthy to behold the Mother of God and the Apostles Peter and John, during their appearance to Sergius. He died in 1385. His relics are in a hidden place in the Trinity Laura, in a church built (in 1734) over the place of his

burial in honor of the appearance of the Mother of God to Ven. Sergius. In the Laura there is a canon with Troparion and prayer to Venerable Micah.

Ven. Hadrian of Monza

A son of Kostroma, from youth he loved monastic asceticism and accepted tonsure into the St. Gennadius Monastery. After this he practiced asceticism in the Spasski [Savior] Monastery (on Kubenskoe Ozero [Kubensky Lake]) and in the (now closed) Obnora Monastery (Yaroslavl Province), when he had not yet found the place pointed out to him in a revelation from on high on the Monza River, 20 versts [13.2 miles] from Kostroma. Here he founded the Blagoveshchensk [Annunciation] Monastery (see Kostroma Diocese), in which he also practiced asceticism until his death in 1619. His relics are in a hidden place in a temple of his monastery (now a parish church).

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0160-0161.
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