

# November 25

## *Leavetaking of the Feast Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos*

**Refer to the chapter in the Typicon and Menaion. If the leavetaking of the feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos falls on a Sunday, the order of service for Saint Peter (see about him below) is dropped, but is sung if the ecclesiarch wishes.**

**Note: According to the general rule for the days of the leavetaking of feast days sing the order only for that saint for which a vigil, or a polyeleos or great doxology is required; but together with the leavetaking of the Entry sing also the service to the Hieromartyr Clement (see about him below) and to Peter, although neither have a festal sign in the Typicon (Ustav).**

## *Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome*

St. Clement was born in Rome of rich and famous parents. In childhood having lost his mother and then his father <sup>1)</sup>, Clement lived under the supervision of pagan tutors. Deprived of parental love and care, St. Clement grew up as a lonely, mournful and thoughtful youth. Surrounded by luxury and earthly pleasures he was shocked by its vanity, and he was cool to the study of pagan wisdom, because he could neither find support nor consolation in it. Soon Clement found consolation and happiness in the Christian faith for himself. One Christian told him about Christ, about life everlasting, and Clement has decided to go to where the apostles were preaching. He listened to Barnabas in Alexandria and to Peter in Caesarea. He believed in Christ and received baptism from Apostle Peter. He also joined his disciples, and later became a co-worker with the Apostle Paul.

Unexpectedly St. Clement met his parents and brothers. All his family, having accepted the Christian faith, came back to Rome and here led a most pious life, making an effort to propagate the Christian faith. St. Clement for his pious life and fervent zealousness for his faith was elected Bishop of Rome and ruled that church from 91 to 101. For his pious life and fervent zeal for his faith he received the complete respect of the Christians.

In preaching Christianity he was not only limited to Rome, but extended it even up to Gaul. The zealousness of St. Clement in explaining Christ to the famous citizens of Rome excited the indignation of the Emperor Trajan and he banished him to the quarry on the peninsula of Crimea in Tauricus Chersonese. St. Clement found about two thousand

Christians there also condemned to work in the quarry, and having learned that they suffered from much thirst, through his prayers he uncovered for them a well of pure water. As a zealous preacher of Christ, St. Clement, living in Crimea, successfully enlightened the resident pagans with the light of the Christian faith. Trajan, having heard about the preaching activity of St. Clement in Crimea, sentenced him in the year 101 to be drowned in the sea with a rock tied to his neck.

During the reign of the Emperor Michael and his mother Theodora, Sts. Cyril and Methodius passing through Chersonese to preach the word of God took the relics of St. Clement and put them in the temple of the Holy Apostles in Chersonese. On the return trip they took the Holy Relics with them and transferred them to Rome, where they are found to this day.

St Clement leaves his "First Epistle", which he wrote to the church at Corinth because of the contentions and disorder which arose in it, and which represents in time the first epistle after the apostolic writings, a monument of Christian teaching and was used in the ancient Church with special respect. Also attributed to him is "the Second Epistle to the Corinthians", standing by itself as an example of early church teaching.

*Troparion, tone 4*

**You gloriously worked miracles from God  
Awing all the ends of the world, O holy Sufferer:  
Beyond the essence of the sea,  
You sustained the waters against those who worked division.  
In your honorable memory,  
They always fervently flow into the church given you by God,  
And like the sea with one current going among all the nations,  
By the miracles through your relics,  
You created wonders:  
O Clement most wonderful,  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**You were revealed a divine vine  
Through the dedicated deeds of all its branches,  
Through the drops of sweetness of wisdom,  
Through your prayers, O All-honorable One,  
That covers you with purple,  
The thoughtful hymn we offer Saint Clement: //  
Save your servants.**

**Epistle:** Philippians 3:20-21, 4:1-3: Sel. 246. **Gospel:** see January 18.

*Our Father among the Saints Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria*



He was elevated to the Archbishopric of Alexandria in 300. The persecution of Diocletian raged especially severely then in Egypt, and St. Peter, "truly shining with apostolic gifts", strengthened not only his congregation, but also the Christians of Thebes and Libya for the ascetic struggle of martyrdom. Backsliding from their faith some of them forced St. Peter to a rule of penance in exile in the year 306. In the year 311 St. Peter, as "the great teacher of the Christian faith", was suddenly seized by the pagans and without any kind of trial was decapitated.

*Kontakion (for Sts. Clement and Peter), Tone 4*

**O Pillars of the Church,  
Unshakeable and divine,  
God-fearing and divine pillars, truly mighty,  
All-praised Clement and Peter,  
Through your prayers maintain us all.**

For the Venerable Peter, see February 1.

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Notes:

1). The mother of Clement left with her two older sons for a long trip by boat. During the trip a violent storm raged and the ship was destroyed, but the mother of Clement was rescued and found by a certain woman herself a refugee. The mother did not know that her sons were also rescued. Being captured by thieves, they were sold into slavery in Caesarea, to Stratonice, the wife of Justus, who loved them as her own children. Here they heard the preaching of the Apostle Peter and believed in Christ. The father of Clement set off to search for his lost family, and not finding them anywhere, he wandered in

deep sorrow through many different countries, voluntarily suffering poverty.  
Later all the members of this pious family found each other.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900), p 430-1.  
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