

# December

*Studen* in Old Slavonic. *Studen, Prosinets* in Little Russian (1).

## *December 1*

### *Holy Prophet Nahum*

Seventh of the twelve Minor Prophets, he was born, as they have laid down, in Galilee in the village of Elkosh, from the root of Simeon. He prophesied during the reign of the Kings Hezekiah and Manasseh (about 700 years before the Nativity of Christ) and left the book, in which he predicted the complete ruin and desolation of the city of Nineveh (2).

*The Martyr Ananias* suffered in the city of Arphil in Persia.

### *St. Philaret the Merciful.*

He lived in Amnia (in Asia Minor) and was both rich and god-fearing. Being rather fainthearted, St. Philaret generously gave from his wealth to the poor, the widows and the orphans and never refused the needy, for this he was called the merciful. The love for the needy by the righteous man reached so far that, finally, he became poor, but also while in this condition he still continued to help the needy. So, once, already not having anything more, St. Philaret removed his outer clothes and gave them to the poor. For such good deeds the Lord soon again awarded St. Philaret with riches. One of his grand daughters, Mary, unexpectedly became the wife of the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (780-797) and the righteous man again became rich, and at the same time even famous. He died in very old age and was buried in Constantinople, in the monastery of the Judgment. At his grave many miracles and healings were performed.

Notes:

(1) December received its name from the Latin word *decem*, which means ten, because for the Romans it was the tenth month of the year. It is called *Studen* because usually at this time there is cold and frost. *Prosinets* see note 1 for January.

(2) Our people consider the Prophet Nahum as the patron for intellectual pursuits, and that is why he is referred to by the people as the learned one and on December 1 they turn to him with a prayer for assistance to those beginning to study. Besides the concurrence of the beginning of training of the peasant children for education with the wintertime, it really is explained by the name of the prophet, *Na-um*, as if it had a relation to the education of a mind.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900), p 438.  
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