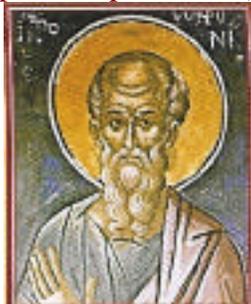


## *December 3.*

### *6. Holy Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonius).*



Ninth of the twelve Minor Prophets, he was from root of Simeon and was well known. "Being worthy of divine vision" and "telling all the nations of the salvation that is given to us by Christ", he prophesied during the reign of the King of Judah Josiah (635-605). The book that he left is a prophecy of the disasters that will soon come upon kingdom of Judah and its other neighboring kingdoms.

#### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**The Divine Spirit revealed that you were brilliant, O Prophet Zephaniah,  
For you proclaimed the coming of God:  
Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion.  
Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem. //  
Behold your King is coming to save mankind.**

#### *✙ Our Venerable Father Sabbas of Zvenigorod (Storozhevsky).*

"Having begun to hate the world," and "his thoughts rising to the heights", the Ven. Sabbas from his youth was one of the first disciples of the Ven. Sergius of Radonezh. Through the directions of his teacher he achieved "the perfect obedience" and became known in the monastery as a true ascetic and so over his life was the confessor of the brotherhood, a respected starets and a teacher of all. Upon the death of the Ven. Sergius, when his successor, the Ven. Nikon (see Nov. 17), because of his love for silence, left the management of the monastery, the brotherhood, "not being able to be without a rector, with many prayers bestowed the office of Hegumen upon the blessed Sabbas", who at that time was the Hegumen of the Dubensky Shavikinsky Monastery (abolished in 1764). Today in place of the monastery, near the village of Skovorodino, Vladimir Province, Alexandrov District, are the Konstantinov volosts (several villages), 2 chapels and some tombs). The Venerable One was also known at the court of the Grand Prince

Basil Dmitrievich whose brother, the Zvenigorod Prince George Dmitrievich, selected him as his confessor. At the request of this prince, the Ven. Sabbas founded the Monastery of the Nativity of the Virgin, near Zvenigorod on Mount Storozhev (see Moscow Diocese). "Having been vested by divine power and having the world die in him", he lived eight years in the monastery, which he founded and died in peace in the year 1407. The Moscow Sobor of 1549 numbered him among the saints. In 1652 his relics were found uncorrupted and now openly rest in his monastery. These relics performed many wonders and healings.

*Troparion, tone 8*

**You have revealed the desert as good growth, O Venerable One.  
For from your youth you have desired to live a pure life,  
Following your spiritual director,  
And by this teaching training your mind to the heavens,  
You have shown the wisdom of the instructor to your flock.  
Therefore, even as Christ has shown you the torch of the enriching wonders:  
Our Father Sabbas, pray to save our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Having been burned by the desire for the Lord,  
You have shaken off carnal passions.  
You were revealed shining as an unsetting Divine Light.  
Rays of wonders flowed from the box of your relics to all those enlightened,  
O our Venerable Father Sabbas.**

**Paramoegas and the Matins Gospel:** see Jan. 10. **Epistle:** see Nov. 4.  
**Gospel:** Mt. 4:25-5:1-12; sel. 10.

**His Synaxis is done in his monastery, in his temple.**

*Ven. Bishop John.* See March 30.

*Ven. Theodulus.* He was the eparch of Constantinople during the reign of Theodosius the Great (379-395). After the death of his spouse, he left for the city of Edessa and there practiced asceticism on a pillar for 8 years.

*Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria* (606-609), suffered for Christ in Alexandria by idolaters who placed a crown of thorns on the head of St. Theodore and, after abusing him, beheaded him.

*Hieromartyr Gabriel, Bishop of Ganos and Chora.* The Turks hanged him in the city of Prousa, in 1659, on the false charge of baptizing a Mohammedan.

*Martyr Angeles,* suffered from the Turks on the island of Chios in 1813.

*Pachra Icon of the Mother of God* that appeared in 1472 on the Pachra River, near Moscow.

\_) The immediate result of the opening of the relics of the Ven. Sabbas were the innumerable miracles from them and the salvation of the life of Tsar Alexis Michaelovich rendered by the venerable one. According to the tradition kept in the Storozhev Monastery, Tsar Alexis Michaelovich in December 1651, during a trip to the monastery as a pilgrim, engaged in hunting in the woods near the monastery and was unexpectedly attacked by a bear. Doomed to sure death, he found salvation for himself in the appearance of a staretz who chased the animal away from him. The Sovereign then recognized in this staretz the Ven. Sabbas and put into his heart the idea of opening his holy relics. It is not known when there was a council meeting on this. But the decision of the council on the ideas of the Tsar followed in 1652.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp (Kharkov, 1900), pp 439-40  
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