

December 16

Holy Prophet Haggai



Tenth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, he belonged to the root of Levi and prophesied during the reign of the Persian King Darius Hystaspes (about 500 years before the Nativity of Christ). After the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity, he convinced them to build the second temple in Jerusalem and calmed them that in this temple lies "the Word without Beginning in the last times is manifest".

Martyr Marinus

He suffered in Rome about 283-284. Refusing to bring a sacrifice to idols and subverting the latter by the power of prayer, St. Marinus after severe torture was beheaded by the sword.

Blessed Empress Theophania, first wife of Emperor Leo the Philosopher

By the slander of a bishop, she together with her husband (then still an heir to the throne) suffered a three-year prison sentence. After she was released, she spent her life in prayer and fasting. Meekness, mercy and fervent contrition for her sins were the distinctive good deeds of St. Theophania. She died in the year 892. Her relics are in Constantinople in the Patriarchate.

St. Memnon, Archbishop of Ephesus

He was present at the Third Ecumenical Council in the year 431.

St. Nicholas Chrysoverges

He was the Patriarch of Constantinople until 996.

*The Repose of the Venerable Princess Sofia, in the world Solomonia,
wife of the Grand Prince Basil Ivanovich*

Divorced from her spouse for barrenness, she against her will was tonsured in the Nativity of Christ Women's Monastery and was then sent to the Suzdal Protection Monastery. Ascending from perfection to perfection through grief and struggle with herself, the Venerable Sofia lived a godly life in the monastery for 17 years and died in 1542. From the grave of the Venerable Sofia flowed many miracles and healings for those who came with faith. Her relics are in the Suzdal Monastery in a hidden place.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 459-460
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