

# December 28

## *B. Holy Twenty Thousand (20,000) Martyrs in Nicomedia*

They were burnt and others outside the church suffered there. In 302 the Emperor Maximian Hercules offered solemn sacrifices to the gods in Nicomedia in celebration of his victories. Christians, who casually were in the area, began to leave afraid of being sprinkled with the blood of idol-sacrifice. Angry with them the Emperor ordered to burn the Christians of Nicomedia together with their temple when they gathered for celebrating the Nativity of Christ. According to the Synodal Menologion of 1862, soon after the burning of these holy martyrs the following holy martyrs died from various tortures: **Indes, Gorgonius, Peter, Zeno, Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Glycerias, Theophilus, Euthymius** and the maidens: **Domna, Agatha, and Theophila**. The following names of martyrs are listed in the service of this day: Theophilus, Dorotheus, Migdonius, Gorgonius, Secundus, Peter, Indes and Anthimus. The names of the holy martyrs Secundus and Anthimus are not mentioned in the Synodal Menaion of 1863 and 1891 (Refer to Sep. 3).

*Troparion, see Nov. 2.*

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**O Saints, made steadfast in soul by faith,  
Twenty thousand athletes accepted suffering by fire,  
Crying out to Him who was born of the Virgin:  
Accept our burned offerings to Thee,  
As you accepted gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense from the Persian kings,  
O Preeternal God.**

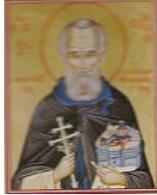
**Epistle:** Rom. 8:3-9; sel. 96. **Gospel:** See Feb. 1.

*Holy Apostle Nicanorus of the 70.* See July 28.

*Ven. Babylus*

He came from Tarsus in Cilicia and was the contemporary of Ven. John Moschus.

### *Simon the Myrrh-gusher*



Born a Bulgarian he was the founder of the monastery in Simonopetra. He died in 1257. His relics exude myrrh.

### *The Repose of Ven. Ignatius of Lom*

Ven. Ignatius began to practice asceticism as a monk in the St. Cyril Belozersk (White Lake) Monastery. Then within 50 versts (about 33 miles) from Vologda, near the former city of Lom, he built the Hermitage of the Savior. Loving solitude, Ven. Ignatius left the Hermitage for the shore of the Sara River in Vadozh Volost (township). Ven. Ignatius constructed a temple in honor of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos and founded the Theotokos Monastery (abolished in 1764) to gather adherents of the monastic life. He died in 1592. His relics are in a hidden place behind the right kliros of the Annunciation Chapel in the former Vadozh Hermitage, now the Savior-Lom parish church.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0484-5.  
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