

The 12th Day of December

Ⲅ Commemoration of our Venerable Father among the Saints,
Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus.

Vespers

At “Lord I call...,” 6 stichera of the Saint, in Tone 5: *To the melody, “Rejoice....”*

Rejoice, O exemplar of hierarchs, /
Unshakable pillar of the Church, /
The glory of the Orthodox, the fountain of miracles, /
The ever-flowing river of love, the instrument of the Holy Spirit, /
Sublime intellect — true meekness and simplicity adorned with true humility, /
Heavenly man and earthly angel, a good worker in the vineyard of Christ! ///
Beseech Him to grant our souls great mercy. *(twice)*

O Spyridon, thou glory of the fathers, /
An example of meekness and an heir to the land of the meek, /
By the power of divine grace, thou didst silence the cunning Arius /
With the gentleness of thy words; /
Thou didst confirm the divine and life-giving dogma which leadeth to salvation /
By the power of the Holy Spirit; /
Thou didst enlighten the faithful to glorify the Word, One in essence with the
eternal Father ///
Who granteth the world great mercy. *(twice)*

Having slain the carnal passions /
Thou didst raise the dead by the grace of God, /
And didst change a serpent into gold, and restrained the raging river by the power of
thy prayer, /
O holy father Spyridon. /
Thou didst appear to the Emperor in a dream and healed him by thy presence. /
Thus, the Lord hath glorified thee! /
Therefore, we celebrate thy memory and venerate the sacred shrine of thy relics, ///
Which are a flowing stream of healings and great mercy. *(twice)*

Glory..., in the Tone 1:

O wise and ven'erable blessèd father Spyridon, /
For the sake of the love of God, thou didst consult with the dead woman as though
she were alive, /
Thou didst transform the serpent into gold for the man beset in poverty, /
Thou didst take pity on thy people and appeared as a healer by the providence of

God, /
Thou didst raise the dead as a true disciple of the Lord, /
And thou didst clearly define the Faith in the Council of the fathers. /
Thou wast enabled to do these things by Christ who strengthened thee. ///
Beseech Him now to show mercy on us and to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "O all-praised martyrs...."

When she beheld Thee unjustly slaughtered, O Christ, /
The most pure Virgin cried out lamenting: /
O my Sweet Child /
How is it that Thou who hast suspended the whole earth upon the waters /
Art hanging now upon the Tree? /
Leave me not alone, O greatly merciful One ///
Who art Thy servant and Thy Mother, I pray Thee!

The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and:

Glory..., in Tone 2:

O venerable and wise father Spyridon, /
Thou hast been revealed as a true treasure among the hierarchs by thy virtues. /
Through them, thou didst cast out the chief of the heretics, /
And in the Council, thou didst cast the blasphemy of Arius to the ground. /
Therefore, thou wast given the grace to work wonders by both word and deed. ///
Do thou beseech Christ to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion or this Stavrotheotokion in the same Tone: To the melody, "Down from the tree...."

When she beheld Thee unjustly slaughtered, O Christ, /
The most pure Virgin cried out to Thee, lamenting: /
O my Sweetest Child /
How dost Thou die unjustly? /
How is it that Thou who hast suspended the whole earth upon the waters /
Art hanging now upon the Tree? /
Leave me not alone, /
O greatly merciful One ///
Who art Thy servant and Thy Mother, I pray Thee!

The Troparion to the Saint, in Tone 4:

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith,

VENERABLE FATHER SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

A model of humility and teacher of abstinence, /
So thou didst win the heights of humility, riches by poverty; /
O holy hierarch, father Spyridon, /
Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Or, this Troparion to the Saint, in Tone 1:

Thou, our father, divinely inspired Spyridon. /
Didst show thyself at the First Council a champion and wonderworker. /
So, thou didst speak to one dead in her tomb /
And didst change a serpent into gold. /
In the reciting of thy holy prayers, /
Thou, O holy one, hadst angles serving with thee. /
Glory to Him who hath so glorified thee, /
Glory to Him who granted thee a cown, /
Glory to Him who through thee grants healing to all.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion.

Matins

The Canon

Both Canons from the Octoechos, excluding the Troparia for the martyrs, and this one of the Saint, with 6 Troparia.

Ode 1

The Canon of St. Spyridon, in Tone 2

the composition of Theophanes.

Irmos: In days of old a mighty force sent the armies of Pharaoh into the deep sea; the Word Incarnate hath destroyed pernicious sin, the Most-glorious Lord has been greatly glorified.

Refrain: Holy hierarch father Spyridon, pray to God for us!

Having attained to the land of the meek, being thyself meek merciful and pure, pacify, O father, the present tempest of my heart, so that in blessed tranquillity, I may sing thy praises.

Having cleared thy soul from the weeds of the passions, O father Spyridon, thou didst become god-like and wast enriched with the radiant splendor of the Divine Spirit. Therefore, thou dost illumine those who rightly bless thee.

Taking thee from amongst the flock as He had David, the Creator appointed thee as a most eminent shepherd of the rational sheep, shining forth with simplicity and meekness, and adorned with the inner beauty of a true pastor.

Refrain: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Theotokion: **O** Most Holy and pure Virgin, enlighten and hallow my thoughts and my soul, I pray thee, and dispel the clouds of my ignorance thus removing the darkness of sin, that I may rightly bless thee, O Lady.

Katavasia: From the Canon of the Nativity.

Ode 3

Irmos: *On the rock of faith Thou hast established me, and Thou hast opened wide my mouth against mine enemies. For my spirit hast rejoiced in singing: None is holy as our God and none is righteous save Thee, O Lord.*

Having illumined thy mind with dispassion and adorned thyself with heavenly humility, thou didst receive the gifts of the Spirit to cast our evil spirits, and to loose the infirmities of those who honor thee with faith, O most holy father.

Having slain the serpent, the author of evil, and trampled down the sin of avarice, O holy hierarch, thou didst take pity on him who was in need, and didst transform a serpent into gold by thy holy prayers, O venerable father Spyridon.

Thou didst ascend the mountain of dispassion; thou didst enter into the shadow of the vision of God, and thou didst receive the law of salvation on the tablets of thy heart since thou art a most holy and faithful favorite of thy Master, Christ.

Theotokion: **H**eal the wounds of my soul, O Bride of God, and illumine my mind which hath been darkened by my slothfulness, that I may sing: There is none blameless save thee, O immaculate one, and none pure but thee, O Lady.

Katavasia:

Sessional Hymn of St. Spyridon, in Tone 8: To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”

Thou didst shine forth as a divinely appointed pastor, /
Raised, as was David, by God from the tending of sheep, /
And wast entrusted to preside over the Church of Christ. /
Thou didst drive away the wolves of false teachings by thy holy words, /
Leading thy flock to graze in the pastures of piety, /
Thus affirming the Faith by the wisdom of the Spirit in the midst of the Council. /
O blessed hierarch Spyridon, /
Entreat Christ God, that He may grant the remission of sins ///
To those who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

As the pure bride of the Creator, /

And the Mother of the Savior, /
As one who knew not wedlock: /
The all-praised receptacle of the essence of the Comforter, /
Hasten to deliver me who has become the abode of evil, /
The plaything of demons and their evil spite; /
And make me the bright dwelling place of virtues, /
O radiant and incorruptible one! /
Drive away the clouds of my passions, ///
And through thy prayers, make me worthy to partake of the things of heaven.

Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

When she beheld the Lamb, /
The Shepherd and Deliverer stretched ot upon the Cross, /
With maternal tears the ewe-lamb cried aloud: /
“The world rejoiceth for it hath received deliverance though Thee, /
Yet my womb burns at the sight of Thy crucifixion, /
Which Thou dost endure in Thy compassion and mercy. /
O longsuffering Lord, and infinite source of mercy, /
Have pity and grant the remission of sins ///
To those who faithfully praise Thy divine suffering.”

Ode 4

***Irmos:** Thou hast come from a Virgin, not as a minister nor an angel, but as the Lord Himself incarnate; to me a human, Thou hast brought salvation; so I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

Set aflame by the burning coal of the Holy Spirit, thou didst burn up the readily kindled fuel of the passions, O all-blessèd one, enlightening the world with the fiery rays of thy virtues.

Having slain the temptations of the flesh, O divinely-inspired one, thou didst raise up the dead by thy life-imparting call. Therefore, we beseech thee: Enliven my slain soul, O father Spyridon!

O father, the dead woman obeying thee, spoke, and by thy command, the raging river was restrained. For thou wast revealed as great wonderworker endowed with divine grace.

Theotokion: The prophets foretold the incomprehensible depth of thy mystery, O pure one, for thou alone didst give birth to the Unknowable One, who, in His ineffable tender compassion, became incarnate through thee.

Ode 5

Irmos: O Christ my Savior, the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness and the salvation of those in despair: O King of peace, I rise early and cry out to Thee, illumine me with the light of Thy radiance, for I know no other God than Thee.

The river of gifts within thee waters every heart, O venerable one, richly bestowing health to all, and moving us to glorify God who hath so glorified thee, and honored thee with the working of countless miracles

The earthly emperor clearly recognized thee as a true servant of the heavenly King, full of divine gifts, O blessed one, when thou didst come to him in a dream, proclaiming God, the great Physician of all.

Emulating the hospitable character of Abraham, thou didst open the doors of thy house unto all, and was truly all things to all people, being ever-mindful of those who were in need, O blessed father Spyridon.

*Theotokion: F*or thou hast given birth to a newborn Babe, who wast begotten before all ages from the Father without beginning, O Maiden. Entreat thou Him, thy Son and God, that he may spare those, who with a pure heart proclaim thee to be the Theotokos!

Ode 6

Irmos: Compassed about in the depths of sin, I entreat the unfathomable depth of Thy compassion; bring me out of corruption, O Lord.

Gold was like clay to thee, who shone forth in dispassion more brightly than gold, for thou wast enriched by the most golden gifts of the Spirit, O venerable one!

Serving thy Master in purity, O venerable one, the angelic hosts came to serve together with thee with their unseen voices, O most holy one.

O most glorious and all-wise father, thy life wast one of the most glorious in this world. Therefore, rejoicing, we celebrate and praise thy most holy memory.

*Theotokion: M*ore spacious than the heavens was thy womb which contained God which no space can contain, O all-holy Virgin Bride of God, who knewest not a man.

Katavasia:

The Kontakion of St. Spyridon, in Tone 2:

O all-holy Spyridon, enraptured by the love of Christ, /
Thou didst fly on the wings of the Spirit, /
To the pure contemplation which inspired thine apostolic life, /
And thou didst become an altar of sacrifice ///
Beseeching the Lord that He may enlighten us all.

*Ikos: L*et us praise Spyridon, the hierarch of the Lord, sanctified from his mother's womb,

VENERABLE FATHER SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

who received the tablets of the grace of divine glory, and became a most glorious wonderworker of all the ages; a fervent witness of the divine radiance; an intercessor for the poor; and spiritual guide for the sinful. He hath truly become like unto a divine oblation before the throne of Christ, as he asks for the divine illumination of us all.

Ode 7

Irmos: The profane command of a lawless tyrant made the flames to rise exceedingly, but Christ sent the dew of the Spirit to the godly youths; blessed is He and most glorious.

Having the fidelity of Moses, the meekness of David, and the blamelessness of the righteous Job, thou didst become the dwelling place of the holy Spirit, and thou didst constantly sing: Blessed and supremely glorious art Thou, O God!

The showers of heaven rained down upon thy head and prefigured the future; for, as thou didst say, God glorified thy holy memory and sanctified the faithful by thy prayers.

At the Council of the fathers, God glorified thee for guarding thy words, O blessed one. Thou didst then bring them forth with faith, and exposed the follies of the irrational Arius, thus destroying his heretical opposition to the true Faith.

Theotokion: **T**hrough the ineffable Word, O Virgin, thou didst put forth the Cluster of grapes as the Branch which alone was uncultivated by man, and which pours forth the wine that gladdens and sanctifies the earthborn while dispelling the darkness of the wicked.

Ode 8

Irmos: In Babylon of old by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in a double way: it burned the Chaldeans while it refreshed the faithful who sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!

Thou didst extinguish the furnace of the passions with the divine showers of the Holy Spirit, O father, pouring forth a dew that taketh away the fever of all the ailing who come to thee in faith, O truly rich and blessed father Spyridon.

Guileless, upright, meek, merciful, tolerant, loving, and hospitable, thou, O holy hierarch, wast adorned with the wisdom of Orthodoxy. Therefore, we honor thee with faith.

When the dead woman questioned by thee, O father, replied as though ash were alive, oh, what a wonder that was! Oh, what a glorious mystery! Oh, the grace which thou hast received, O angelic and right-glorious one!

Theotokion: **H**eal thou the passions of my heart with thy mercy, O all-laudable one; calm thou my mind, enlighten thou my soul, and guide me along the path of salvation, so that I may ever praise thee, O all-praised Lady!

Katavasia:

Ode 9

Irmos: The Son of the eternal Father, God the Lord incarnate of the Virgin, has appeared to us to give light to those in darkness and to gather those who had gone astray; so we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

As one exalted among all the God-bearing fathers thou didst openly proclaim the Son of the Father before all ages to be of one essence and equally co-eternal with the Father, and didst thus stop the mouths of the faithless, O all-blessèd and holy father Spyridon.

O most radiant sun, the adornment of the hierarchs, the glory of priests, and converser with the angels: by thy prayers, grant the never-ending light to shine upon those who now joyfully celebrate thy light-bearing memory.

Thy soul, hallowed and adorned with the virtues, was welcomed to the divine mansions of the heavenly city with voices of rejoicing by the heavenly choirs, O all-blessèd one!

Theotokion: The great mystery of thine ineffable birthgiving astounded the angels, O divinely-joyous Lady, and delights the assemblies of the righteous and the sacred fathers who rightly praise thee, the hope of our souls.

Katavasia:

Exapostilarion from the Octoechos, and:

Glory..,

O God-bearing Spyridon, thou light of the world, like Moses and David, whose calling thou didst follow, the Spirit led thee up to be a rational man from among an irrational flock

Now and ever.... Theotokion:

Thou wast the cause of the blessings bestowed by God upon the world, O Theotokos. And, even now, for the salvation of all, entreat God to take pity on us.

At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Octoechos, then:

Glory..., in the Tone 4:

O ven'erable and all-praised and holy hierarch, /
Filled with the teachings of the apostles, /
By thy virtuous life, thou didst become a fitting abode of the Holy Spirit, /
And a pillar and champ'ion of piety. /
Thou didst drive away the wolves that beset the Church with thy teachings, /
And made clear the Orthodox Faith, /
Therefore, thou dost work wonders today as thou didst in the past, /
Changing serpents into gold and conversing with the dead. /

VENERABLE FATHER SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

Do now, O converser with the teachers of the Church, who art wondrous among the fathers, ///

Entreat the Savior that He may save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion or this Stavrotheotokion in the same Tone: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Seeing Christ being put to death /
As He was putting to death the great deceiver, /
The most pure Lady cried bitterly before Him who came forth from her womb, /
And marveling at His longsuffering, she cried aloud: /
O my most belovèd Child, forget me not, Thy servant! ///

Do not delay my consolation, O Lover of mankind!

Note: In Greek usage, the service to St. Spyridon is a Doxology-ranked, rather than a 6-stichera service, as in the Slav Menaion. **Therefore, according to the Greek usage, the Praises are sung instead:**

On the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, ““Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Illumined by the radiance of the Holy Spirit /
Thou didst dispel the darkness of Arian heresy, O wise one. /
And with simplicity, thou didst faithfully teach the Trinity, /
And wast therefore glorified by the learnèd fathers, ///

Thus confirming the First Council, O father Spyridon. *(twice)*

Illumined from heaven with the power of Christ /
Thou dost bestow healing of both the body and the soul /
Upon those who celebrate thy memory with faith, /
O divinely bless't wonderworker Spyridon. ///

Never cease to intercede for us.

In thy faithfulness to the commandments, /
Thou wast revealed to be a husbandman of the True Vine, Christ our God. /
Therefore, O God-bearing father, /
Thou received mystically from heaven the talent of the kingdom from on high. ///

Pray thou without ceasing for us who honor thee, O most wise father Spyridon.

Glory..., in the Tone 4:

O ven'erable and all-praised and holy hierarch, /
Filled with the teachings of the apostles, /
By thy virtuous life, thou didst become a fitting abode of the Holy Spirit, /
And a pillar and champ'ion of piety. /

Thou didst drive away the wolves that beset the Church with thy teachings, /
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At the Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from the Third Ode of the Canon of St. Spyridon.

1-4. (From the Octoechos)

5. Having illumined thy mind with dispassion and adorned thyself with heavenly humility, thou didst receive the gifts of the Spirit to cast our evil spirits, and to loose the infirmities of those who honor thee with faith, O most holy father.

6. Having slain the serpent, the author of evil, and trampled down the sin of avarice, O holy hierarch, thou didst take pity on him who was in need, and didst transform a serpent into gold by thy holy prayers, O venerable father Spyridon.

7. Thou didst ascend the mountain of dispassion; thou didst enter into the shadow of the vision of God, and thou didst receive the law of salvation on the tablets of thy heart since thou art a most holy and faithful favorite of thy Master, Christ.

8. Theotokion: Heal the wounds of my soul, O Bride of God, and illumine my mind which hath been darkened by my slothfulness, that I may sing: There is none blameless save thee, O immaculate one, and none pure but thee, O Lady.

The Troparion to the Saint, in Tone 4:

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith,

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A model of humility and teacher of abstinence, /
So thou didst win the heights of humility, riches by poverty; /
O holy hierarch, father Spyridon, /
Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Or, this Troparion to the Saint, in Tone 1:

Thou, our father, divinely inspired Spyridon. /
Didst show thyself at the First Council a champion and wonderworker. /
So, thou didst speak to one dead in her tomb /
And didst change a serpent into gold. /
In the reciting of thy holy prayers, /
Thou, O holy one, hadst angles serving with thee. /
Glory to Him who hath so glorified thee, /
Glory to Him who granted thee a crown, /
Glory to Him who through thee grants healing to all.

Kontakion of St. Spyridon, in Tone 2:

O all-holy Spyridon, enraptured by the love of Christ, /
Thou didst fly on the wings of the Spirit, /
To the pure contemplation which inspired thine apostolic life, /
And thou didst become an altar of sacrifice ///
Beseeching the Lord that He may enlighten us all.

Prokeimenon, in Tone 1: My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *Verse:* Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

The Epistle: (335) Hebrews 13:17-21

The Alleluia, in Tone 2: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment. *Verse:* The Law of God is in his heart and his steps shall not falter.

The Gospel: (24) Luke 6:17-23

Communion Hymn: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia....