



Holy Righteous Symeon of Verhoturye was a nobleman, but he concealed his origin and led the life of a beggar. He walked through the villages and sewed half-coats and other clothes free, primarily for the poor. While doing this he deliberately failed to sew something, either a glove, or a scarf, for which he endured abuse from his customers.

The ascetic wandered much, but most often he lived at a churchyard of the village of Merkushinskoe, not far from the city of Verhoturye (on the outskirts of Perm). St Symeon loved nature in the Ural Mountains, and while joyfully contemplating its majestic beauty, he would raise up a thoughtful glance towards the Creator of the world. In his free time, the saint loved to go fishing in the tranquility of solitude. This reminded him of the disciples of Christ, whose work he continued, guiding the local people in the true Faith. His conversations were a seed of grace, from which gradually grew the abundant fruits of the Spirit in the Urals and in Siberia, where the saint is especially revered.

St Symeon of Verhoturye died in 1642, when he was 35 years of age. He was buried in the Merkushinskoe graveyard by the church of the Archangel Michael.

On September 12/25, 1704, the holy relics of Righteous Symeon were transferred from the church of the Archangel Michael to the Saint Nicholas Monastery in Verhoturye.

St Symeon worked many miracles after his death. He frequently appeared to the sick in dreams and healed them, and he brought to their senses those fallen into the disease of drunkenness. A peculiarity of the saint's appearances was that with the healing of bodily infirmities, he also gave instruction and guidance for the soul.

Today, as in the past, through the prayers of Saint Symeon, the Lord bestows His Divine help, consolation, strengthening, correction, healing of souls and bodies, as well as deliverance from evil and impure spirits. Especially, the people in Siberia prayerfully call upon the Verhoturye wonderworker in cases of eye disease and paralysis.

Sunday September 25

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of the translation (in 1704) of relics of Righteous Symeon of Verhoturie (†1642)

+++

Wednesday, September 28

Moleben to the Precious Cross 5:30 P.M.

+++

Sunday, October 2

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of Holy Right-Believing Princes Theodore of Smolensk (†1299) and his sons David (†1321) and Constantine, Wonderworkers of Yaroslavl, and Right-Believing Great Prince Igor of Chernigov (†1147)

Life of Right-believing Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia of Murom (†1228)

IV

Peter returned to his native city of Murom with his body completely healed excepting one single scab. Soon afterward, however, more sores and ulcers began to spread from the single scab which had not been covered by the ointment. And then his whole body was once again covered with sores and ulcers. Seeing that his affliction had returned, Prince Peter decided to return to Fevronia once again to undergo the proven treatment.

He returned to Riazan and to Fevronia's house, and despite the fact that he was ashamed for not having kept his promise to marry her, he asked her to treat him once more. Fevronia was not the least bit angry, but said that she would treat him only if he decided to be her husband. This time the prince firmly promised that he would take her as his wife.

The maiden then prescribed the same treatment as before. And when he was healed again, Prince Peter took Fevronia for his wife. And in this way did Fevronia become a princess. And both of them went to Peter's native city of Murom, and there they lived extremely piously, closely obeying the commandments of God. Soon after their arrival in Murom, Prince Paul died, and Prince Peter became the sole ruler of the city.



The boyars (*aristocrats*) of the city of Murom did not find Princess Fevronia to their liking. They, under the influences of their spouses, resented the princess because of her common origin. However, because of her charitable deeds, she was extremely popular among the simple people, and they prayed to God for her. Once, one of the courtiers, wanting to bring strife between Peter and Fevronia, came to the prince and told him: “The princess usually gets up from the table when she is not supposed to do so. Moreover, before leaving the table, she picks up the crumbs as if she were hungry.”

Prince Peter decided to see if these accusations were true. He ordered that Princess Fevronia sit beside him at the table. When dinner was over, Fevronia picked up all the crumbs and kept them in her hand as she was accustomed to doing since her childhood. Seeing this, Prince Peter caught her by the hand and told her to open her fist, but when she did so they found fragrant myrrh and incense in the palm of her hand. And from that day on, Peter never attempted to question his wife’s deeds.



Peter is looking at what Fevronia has in the palm of her hand, while malicious boyars are looking on

Many years later, the resentful boyars came once again to Peter and said: “Our lord, we want to serve you honestly and want you as our ruler, but we do not want Princess Fevronia as our princess, nor do we want her to rule over our wives. If you are to remain our lord, you must take another for princess. Fevronia may take her wealth and go away anywhere she may wish to go.”

Blessed Prince Peter was of gentle nature and did not become angry, but promised to talk to Princess Fevronia to learn what she would say of this. The shameless courtesans then decided to organize a banquet. They became drunk at this banquet and began to talk arrogantly like loudly barking dogs. And they began to deny Fevronia’s miraculous gift of healing, which she had received from God not only for this life but even for after death.

They began talking: “Our lady, Princess Fevronia, the whole city and all the boyars ask you to give back to us Prince Peter, because we want him.”

Fevronia answered: “You can have him. Only speak with him.”

Then the boyars all spoke at once, saying: “Our lady, all of us want Prince Peter to rule over us, but our wives do not want you to rule over them. Please, take as much wealth as you desire and go wherever you like.”

Hearing these words, Princess Fevronia told them that she would do as they desired but that now she must ask them to do one thing that she desired. The boyars, who were not very clever, rejoiced, and thought that they would easily rid themselves of her. So they pledged to do as she asked. And Princess Fevronia said: “I want nothing from you but my husband, Prince Peter.”

The boyars deliberated for a short while and then said: “If Prince Peter will have it this way, we will not contradict him.”

They hoped that they would be able to choose another ruler if Prince Peter did not wish to break the divine commandment, for it is written in the Gospel of Apostle Matthew: “But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of unchastity, makes her an adulteress.” And Prince Peter, following the commandment of Jesus, gave up his rule over the city of Murom.

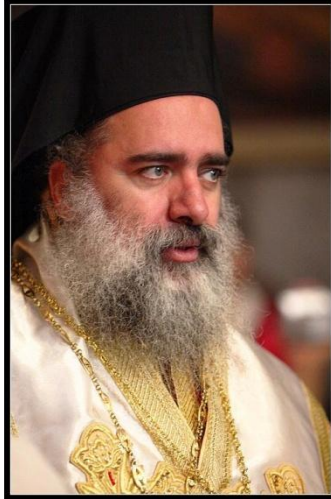
To be continued

..... News From All The Ends Of The Earth

Nairobi, Kenya: On Tanzania’s semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar, Christians live in a climate of fear. Schools teach only Islamic studies, not Christianity, and any student stating that Jesus is God will not receive a grade. The Muslim majority oppresses religious minorities in more subtle ways. Young people are forced to change their Christian names to Muslim names so as to be considered for employment. At times churches are deprived of piped water and have to rely on rainwater. The church leaders said many Christians have been forcefully converted to Islam. It has become extremely risky for churches to have their documents typed or printed in cybercafés, as shop personnel are saving copies that they take to Muslim sheikhs in order to disclose Christian activities. Their findings are announced in mosques. It is also preached in mosques that no Muslim should sell land to infidels (i.e. (Christians)). Many young Christians, unable to endure threats from their families and the community, decide to flee the island for the continental Tanzania.

Holy Land: The main Christian denominations in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza have issued a joint statement supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Around 57000 Christians live there. Theodosios, the Orthodox Archbishop of Sebastia, told

euronews the Palestinian people deserve a state, and United Nations' recognition. "We are part of these people and we support this. We work side by side with all the sectors of the Palestinian people, Muslims and Christians, for our freedom and our independence and to establish our independent Palestinian state and its capital Jerusalem. We hope that the United States and Europe and all those who are sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, will support this just demand."



Archbishop Theodosios

Mogadishu, Somalia: In Mogadishu, winners of a Quran recital contest among young school children were awarded assorted weapons including bombs and assault rifles. The big ceremony was attended by senior officials. The first winner was given AK-47 rifle and \$700, the second was awarded with AK-47 rifle and \$500 and the third winner was handed over two hand grenades and \$400 as prizes. The three were also given religious books. "We want the children to fight for defending of their country and their religion", said Sheikh Abu Mansur.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. September bulletin covers' sponsor is Robert Hamady — in memory of mother Mary Hamady.
2. This Sunday, the Eternal Light is offered in memory of Robert Springman by Jodi McMaster and Jenny Elenberger. May Robert's memory be eternal.
3. Pani Sharon Holowaty would like to inform our faithful that the Altar Society of the Descent of the Holy Spirit Church is hosting a Calendar Party on Sunday, October 9, at noon. The Altar Society is inviting us to come "for a wonderful lunch, with all the tables decorated in a monthly calendar theme. Ticket donation is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. For further information call Darlene Kmet (219)365-2934.
4. Holy Archangel Michael Church in Niles, IL, is hosting a DDD Dinner this year. The dinner is on Sunday, Oct. 30. DDD donation forms and dinner information can be found in the narthex.
5. Next weekend two area churches celebrate their anniversaries.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church of East Chicago is celebrating its 100th anniversary: Akathist to Saint George is on Friday, September 30, at 5 P.M.; Hierarchical Divine Liturgy is on Saturday, October 1, at 9:30 A.M. (*Fr Sergii is planning to con-celebrate at this Liturgy*) (followed by a luncheon); on Saturday evening a concert of neighboring choirs will be held in the church hall along with dance performances by local dance groups; on Sunday, October 2, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and consecration of frescoes is at 9:30 A.M. (after the Liturgy, the Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts (1040 Ridge Road, Munster, IN)).

Protection of the Virgin Mary (OCA) parish in Merrillville is also celebrating its 100 anniversary: Friday night is a fish fry dinner and Great Vespers; Saturday morning is the Divine Liturgy followed by a program about the history of the parish; Saturday night is Great Vespers, followed by a panihida for the departed members of the parish; Sunday morning is the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by the Great Banquet at St Elijah's Serbian Hall in Merrillville.

- ☞ Our Soup Sale season begins on October 22 — the fourth Saturday of October (being that there are five Saturdays that month). Please plan to cook and bake for our first major fundraiser this fall. If you are not able to contribute product, please help by your monetary donations.
- ☛ We are asked to remember to bring flowers to church. Since our gardens are almost void of flowers, any, even a rather modest bouquet can be purchased at any grocery store and brought to church.
- ☞ Last Sunday, our Sunday School program was resumed for the little ones. May the humble beginning continue for the sake of ensuring the future of the parish.