



Saint Theodore the Tyro (Recruit)

First Saturday of the Fast: The Commemoration of the Miracle of the Kollyva Wrought by Saint Theodore the Tyro.

Julian the Apostate, knowing that Christians purify themselves by fasting most of all during the first week on the Fast—which is why we call it Clean Week—planned to defile them especially at that time. Therefore he secretly commanded that during those days the markets be filled with foods that had been defiled with the blood of animals offered in sacrifice to idols. But by divine command the Martyr Theodore (see Feb. 17) appeared during sleep to Eudoxius, then Archbishop of Constantinople. The saint revealed to him the tyrant’s plan, then told him to call the faithful together immediately on Monday morning and prevent them from purchasing those foods, but rather to make *kollyva* to supply their needs. The bishop asked what *kollyva* might be, and the Saint answered, “*Kollyva* is what we call boiled wheat in Euchaita.” Thus, the purpose of the Apostate was brought to naught, and the pious people who were preserved undefiled for the whole of Clean Week rendered thanks to the Martyr on this Saturday, and celebrated his commemoration with *kollyva*. These things took place in 362. Wherefore, the Church keeps this commemoration each year to the glory of God and the honour of the Martyr.

Dismissal Hymn. Second Tone

GREAT are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced; for having been made a whole-burnt offering in the fire, he was offered as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Theotokion. Same Tone

ALL thy mysteries are beyond comprehension: all are exceedingly glorious O Theotokos. Sealed with purity and preserved in virginity, thou wast known to be a true mother, giving birth unto the true God. Do thou entreat Him that our souls be saved.

Kontakion. Plagal of Fourth Tone

HAVING received the Faith of Christ in thy heart as a breastplate, thou didst trample upon the enemy hosts, O much-suffering champion; and thou hast been crowned eternally with a heavenly crown, since thou art invincible.



† THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN AT THE TOMB

(A BAS RELIEF IN IVORY)