



**Our Father Among the Saints Spyridon the Wonderworker,
Bishop of Trimythus in Cyprus. Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on
December 12.**

Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter, whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythus and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of Arian who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such wonders that he received the surname "Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing to the faithful.

About the middle of the seventh century, because of the incursions made by the barbarians at that time, his sacred relics were taken to Constantinople, where they remained, being honored by the emperors themselves. But before the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, a certain priest named George Kalokhairetes, the parish priest of the church where the Saint's sacred

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relics , as well as those of Saint Theodora the Empress, were kept, took them away on account of the impending peril. Traveling by way of Serbia, he came as far as Arta in Epirus, a region in Western Greece opposite to the isle of Corfu. From there, while the misfortunes of the Christian people were increasing with every day, he passed over to Corfu about the year 1460. The relics of Saint Theodora were given to the people of Corfu; but those of Saint Spyridon remain to this day; according to the rights of inheritance, the most precious treasure of the priest's own descendants, and they continue to be a staff for the faithful in Orthodoxy, and a supernatural wonder for those that behold him; for even after the passage of 1,500 years, they have remained incorrupt, and even the flexibility of his flesh has been preserved. Truly wondrous is God in His Saints. (Ps. 67:35).

Rest from labour. Wine and oil allowed.

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Dismissal Hymn of the Hierarch

THOU wast shown forth as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father. Wherefore, thou didst speak unto one dead in the grave, and didst change a serpent to gold. And while chanting thy holy prayers, thou hadst Angels serving with thee, O most sacred one. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

Kontakion of the Hierarch. Second Tone *Thou soughtest the heights*

PIERCED through with the love * of Christ, O sacred Spyridon, * thou gavest thy mind * divine wings with the Spirit's light: * in the active vision of God were all thy labors, O inspired of God, * whereby thou becamest the Lord's * divine altar, asking divine light for all.



IN WISDOM HAST THOU MADE THEM ALL