



**The Holy and Glorious Great Martyr Irene
Whom the Holy Church Commemorates on May 5.**

Saint Irene was the daughter of a princelet named Licinius; named Penelope by her parents, through a divine revelation she was brought to faith in Christ and at Baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety she broke in pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses. But while she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayer she raised him to life again, and he believed and was baptized. Afterwards, in many journeyings, Saint Irene suffered many torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working dread miracles and converting many thousands of souls. At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace, in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. At least two churches were dedicated to Saint Irene in Constantinople, and she is also the patroness of the Aegean island of Thera, which is commonly called Santorin (or Santorini), a corruption of "Saint Irene."



*Dismissal hymn. Fourth Tone
Joseph was amazed*

OLORD JESUS, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: * O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking for Thee, I now contest, * and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. * I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die that I may live in Thee; * accept me offered out of longing * to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. * Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.

*Kontakion. Third Tone
On this day the Virgin*

BEING fair adorned before * with pure and virginal beauty, * thou becomest fairer still * in thy brave contest, O virgin; * for when thou, in thine own spilt blood, * wast stained and reddened, * O Irene, thou overthrewest ungodly error. * Hence, thou hast received the prizes * of thy good vict'ry * from thy Creator's right hand.



**DECHANI MOTHER OF GOD
DECHANI MONASTERY, SERBIA**