

February 20

Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints

Leo, Bishop of Catania

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 6)

6. Having received the heavenly power of the Paraclete, the Apostles of Christ drove back the hordes of the enemy. They put the wise to shame and triumphed over kings, though they were unskilled and unlettered, fighting without shields or weapons, armed only with the Gospel. By the word of truth, they worked wonders and brought the nations to obedience to Christ; and they now boldly intercede on behalf of our souls.
5. For love of You, the glorious Apostles renounced themselves and followed after You wholeheartedly. Taking up their cross in Your footsteps, in obedience to Your command, they abandoned the earth and received Heaven as their inheritance, bringing the nations to knowledge of You, O Lord. Having become Your companions forever, they now boldly intercede on behalf of our souls.
4. Having spent my whole life in negligence, I have come to its end without bearing any fruit, carrying only the painful burden of my evil deeds, O God of all goodness. O Lover of Mankind, blot them out by the power of Your love. Grant me compunction and a saving conversion at the prayers of Your Apostles, O my God, whom I offer to You as intercessors together with the Woman who gave You birth.

For Leo (Tone 8)

3. By your ascetical labors and total purification, O Leo, blessed and Godly-minded father, you were united to your God and Creator in all purity. Filled with divine light, you received the power to heal incurable illness-es and to drive out unclean spirits by the strength of your prayers.
2. Having become a bishop, O Leo, truly blessed father, you were a true shepherd. With the staff of the Faith and the power of the Spirit, you led your flock into the green meadows of holiness and orthodoxy. By the wonders you worked for His sake, you have inherited a glory in the presence of God which shall never pass away.
1. Come, draw holy oil which flows from the precious relics of the great shepherd as from an inexhaustible well. Say to the God of all, "You are wonderful in Your Saints! By the prayers of holy Leo, save us in Your goodness, O compassionate Lord, for we celebrate his sacred memory."
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Come, my soul: grieve and weep! Pour out streams of tears from the depths of your heart; and cry out to the Mother of God, "O pure Virgin, I entreat you: in your great compassion, deliver me from the fearful and terrible punishment. Grant that I may dwell in a place of repose, where I may enjoy eternal happiness!"

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 6*)

1. Once when Your Apostles were tossed about on their ship by a storm, they cried aloud: "Master save us, for we are perishing!" And now it is we who cry out: "We entreat You, O Savior, Lover of Mankind, deliver us from all danger!"

All: To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses; thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.

2. O Lord, Your Apostles touched the very depths of the sea with their nets, then the very heights of the Kingdom by their teaching. By skill they were fishermen who searched the unsounded depths; by faith, they looked into Your infinite heart and preached Your timeless Son to the whole world. At their prayers and those of all Your saints, have mercy on us.

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.

3. O Lord, Your Cross became an invincible weapon for the martyrs. Seeing the death approaching them, and foreseeing the life awaiting them, they were strengthened by their hope in You. At their intercession, have mercy on us.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of Life: wherefore we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the Apostles and all the saints that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

TROPARION OF LEO (*Tone 4*)

O father and hierarch Leo, the holiness of your life has set you before your flock as a rule of faith, an example of meekness and a teacher of self-restraint. Wherefore you acquired greatness through humility and spiritual wealth through poverty. Pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 4*)

O Virgin Theotokos, we acknowledge that the Word of the Father, Christ our God, was incarnate of you, the only pure one, the only blessed one. Wherefore we sing to you a hymn of praise and we exalt you.