

## First Saturday of the Great Fast: The Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore the Recruit

Julian the Apostate, knowing that the Christians purify themselves by fasting most of all during the first week of the Fast -- which is why we call it Clean



Week -- planned to defile them especially at that time. 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 appeared during sleep to Eudoxius, who was Archbishop of Constantinople at the time. 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 nought, 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 *anno Domini* 362. The Church keeps this commemoration each year to the glory of God and the honor of the Martyr.