

ST. THEODORA THE EMPRESS

St. Theodora, the Empress, was the wife of the Byzantine Emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast. After the death of Theophilus, Theodora became the ruling Empress and reigned together with her son, Michael III. In 842, during a Council in Constantinople under the Patriarch **St. Methodius**, she restored the veneration of the Holy Icons. On this occasion, the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy was instituted, which is still celebrated today on the First Sunday of the Great Fast.

In 856, as a result of the slanders of her brother Caesar Bardas, she was imprisoned by her son, the Emperor Michael, in the Gastria Monastery. Here, she reposed in peace in 867. Her body was discovered to be **incorrupt** and today it is to be found in the church of Holy Theotokos “The Cave Dweller,” in Corfu, Greece (except her holy head, which has been lost).