

ANTIPHONITRIA ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

—Commemorated August 1st—

This icon of the Mother of God is found in the Monastery of Konstamonitou, located on Mount Athos. On August 1st, in the year 1020 AD, on the eve of the feast day of the translation of the holy relics of Saint Stephen, the monk assigned to take care of the church was overcome with great sorrow because the monastery's supplies were so depleted that there was not even enough oil available for him to light the church vigil lamps. He thus prayed before this icon of the Mother of God with fervent tears to the point of exhaustion. Having fallen asleep before the icon, he had a vision in which he heard a voice coming from the icon, telling him that the church vessels had been filled with oil,



and that the storerooms were replete with all the provisions required to sustain the brotherhood's needs. When he awoke, he ran to the clay receptacles, which he found filled to the brim with oil, and then he proceeded to the storerooms which had indeed been filled with food supplies in abundance. He quickly informed the Abbot and all the monks of the miracle that had occurred, and in following they held an all-night vigil to thank the Mother of God. The word *Antiphonitria* means “she who spoke” or “she who responded.”