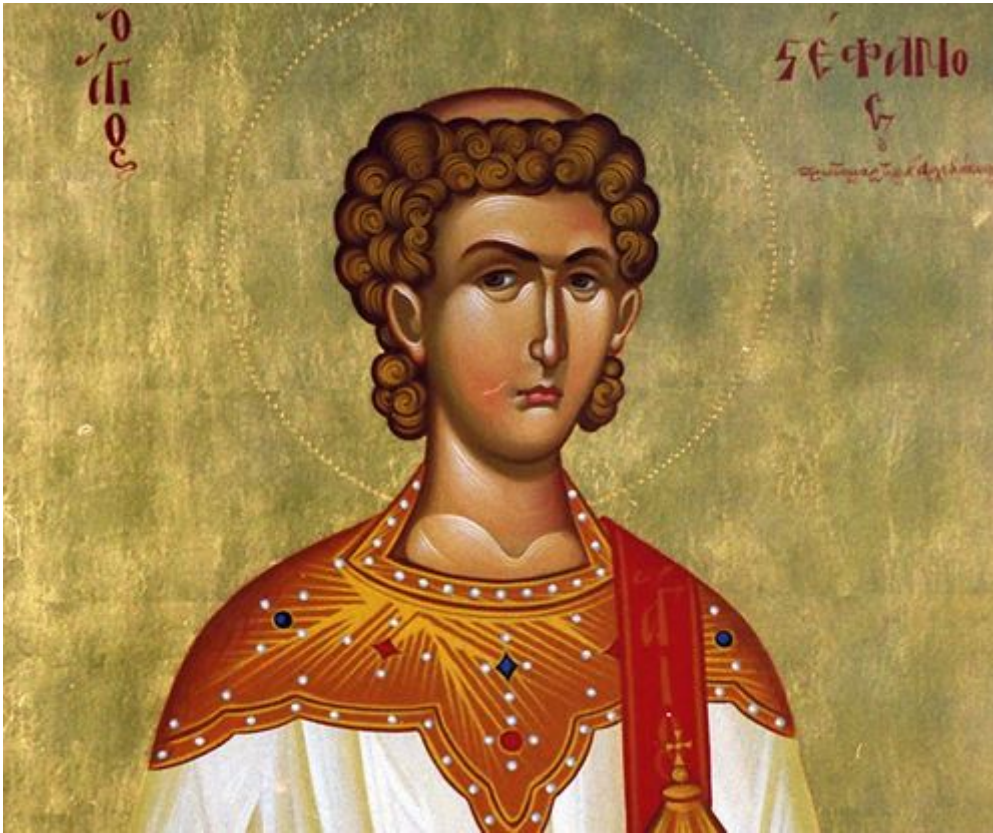


## Commemoration of the Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr



**The Church today commemorates the Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr, in an era immediately after the major persecutions of early Christians in the Roman empire, and during the reign of Constantine the Great.**

In the third decade of the 5th century, a pious man called Lucian, who was the parish priest of a church near the field outside Jerusalem where Stephen was stoned, received from God a revelation in a dream concerning the place where the First Martyr was buried.

He immediately made this known to John, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Thus, coming to the place indicated, and digging there, they found a box with the word "Stephen", written in Aramaic. Upon opening it, they took these sacred relics and transferred them to Jerusalem with great honor and in the company of a great multitude of the faithful.