

## **THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

### **SAINT SIMEON THE STYLITE**

**From atop his pillar, He worked great miracles,healing the sick by hi prayers and words.**

**When we read the accounts of the lives of the saints, we are amazed to see the extent to which pious men and women devoted their days to serving the Lord. ST. SIMEON THE STYLITE is one such example of someone who lived his life in dedicated service to Christ, sacrificing everything for his Saviour. He was born in Syria in the late 4<sup>th</sup> Century. From his youth, Simeon showed signs of having received a special calling from God. At the age of 18, he entered a monastery, where he adhered to the strictest of ascetic disciplines and practices. It was quite common for him to embark upon lengthy periods of private prayer and severe fasts.**

**While still a young man, St. Simeon developed a new form of monasticism. He became the first of the “pillar ascetics” known as “Stylites.” In an effort to live as secluded a life as possible, Simeon went into the desert outside of Antioch and constructed a 60 foot high pillar, upon which a small platform rested. Here he lived as a stylite for 40 years! His was an existence of ultimate self-denial. Simeon was so determined to remain alone with His Creator that he even refused to see his own mother, gently telling her: “Do not disturb me now mother. If we are worthy, we will meet in the next world.”**

**Despite his desire for solitude, Simeon’s reputation spread throughout Syria and its surrounding regions. People from all walks of life made pilgrimages to the pillar of St. Simeon, seeking his prayers and wise counsel. Many miracles were worked by this devout saint.**

**St. Simeon the Stylite died in 459 A. D. at the age of 70. The ruins of his beloved pillar can still be seen in the Syrian desert where this great ascetic and wonderworker spent his life.**