

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

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Sunday December 3, 2017

Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (635-605 b.c.); Martyrs Agapius, Seleucus, and Mamas, Indus, Domna, Glycerius, and 40 Martyrs, in Sofianá; Venerable Theodoulos (Theodoulos the Stylite), Eparch of Constantinople (440); Venerable Theodoulos the Cypriot, monk; Saint John the Silent (John Hesychastes), Bishop of Colonia (Taxara) in Armenia, and later a monk of St. Sabbas Monastery (558); Hieromartyr Patriarch Theodore I of Alexandria, Archbishop of Alexandria (607-609); Saint Lucius (Lucios) of Britain, British noble who asked that missionaries be sent to Britain, founding the dioceses of London and Llandaff (2nd c.); Martyr Cassian of Tangier (298); Saint Mirocles, Archbishop of Milan and Confessor, helped develop the Ambrosian Liturgy and chanting (318); Martyr Agricola, in Pannonia; Martyrs Claudius, Crispin, Magina, John, and Stephen, in Africa; Saint Ethernan, born in Scotland, became a bishop in Ireland, returned to preach the Gospel in Scotland; Saint Birinus (Birinos), Bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames, "Apostle to the West Saxons", Enlightener of Wessex (649); Saint Eloquius (Eloque), disciple and successor of St Fursey as Abbot of Lagny (660); Saint Attalia (Attala), a niece of St Otilia, she became a nun and Abbess of St Stephen's in Strasbourg (741); Saint Sola (Sol, Solus, Suolo), Anglo-Saxon missionary priest under St. Boniface (Germany) (794); Saint Abbo of Auxerre, Bishop of Auxerre (860); Saint Sabbas of Storozhev (Sabbas of Zvenigorod), Abbot of Storozhev in Zvenigorod, disciple of St. Sergius of Radonezh (1406) (see also January 19); New Hieromartyr Gabriel II of Constantinople, (previously Bishop of Ganos), at Prusa (1659); Saint Ilarion (Hrihorovich), Native of Chernihiv, Monk of the Kyiv-Bratsky Monastery, Bishop (1759); New Monk-Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne's Skete on Mount Athos (1760); Saint George of Cernica and Caldarushani, Archimandrite, Romania (1806); New Martyr Angelus (Angelos) of Chios, formerly a doctor of Argos (1813); New Hieromartyr Andrew (Kosovky), Protopresbyter of Simferopol-Crimea (1920); Saint Parasceva (Rodimtseva), Abbess of Toplovsky Convent in Simferopol (1928); New Hieromartyr Nicholas (Yershov), Priest of Yaroslavl-Rostov (1930 or 1937); Saint Gregory, Confessor (1960); **Other commemorations:** Repose of King Magnus II of Sweden and Valaam(Magnus IV), Gregory in schema (1371); Repose of Archimandrite Theophanes of Novoezersk Monastery in Novgorod (1832); Commemoration of Nun Rafaela (Chernetska) of Zhitomir (2005).

Services for the week of December 3

Tonight: 8:00 pm Vigil for the Great Martyr Barbara

Monday, December 4: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Great Martyr Barbara

Tuesday, December 5: 6:30 pm Vigil for the Holy Hierarch Nicholas of Myra

Wednesday, December 6: 9:00 am Divine Liturgia for the Feast of St. Nicholas

Thursday, December 7: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy—Feast of St. Ambrose of Milan

Saturday, December 9: 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Parish News

WELCOME: to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

OFFERINGS: November 5:\$1924.00 November 19:\$590.00 November 26: \$1027.00

PLEASE REMEMBER Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who are suffering from serious illness. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

ST. NICHOLAS DINNER will be held TODAY. There are two seatings; one at 4:00 pm and the other at 6:30 pm. Full details can be found on the flyers in the church hall or on the parish website.

Please support this excellent fund raiser for our church!

TAKE A LOOK at the new library entrance in our church hall. It is now a beautiful arched doorway which will be finished as soon as possible. We plan to have a very inviting area with books and icons for our parishioners and guests to browse. There's more on the parish website!

PRAYERS FOR PEACE are on our diocesan ACROD website. Please take up the Nativity Fast Prayer challenge with your family and ask the Lord to send his grace to our world for an end to conflict in our personal lives and also between nations.

COMING UP are the Feasts of Sts. Barbara (December 4), Nicholas (December 6) and Ambrose (December 7). It will be a week of festive liturgies!

REFLECTION

Obedience, coupled with humility, is the foundation of the spiritual life, the foundation of salvation and the foundation of the overall structure of the Church of God. The great John Damascene—great in every good thing—as a monk left a deep impression on the history of the Church by his exceptional example of obedience and humility. Testing him one day, his elder and spiritual father handed him woven baskets and ordered him to take them to Damascus and sell them there. The elder established a very high price for the baskets, thinking that John would not be able to sell them at that price but would have to return with them. John, therefore, firstly had to go on a long journey; secondly, he had to go as a poor monk to the city where he, at one time, had been the most powerful man after the Caliph; thirdly, he had to seek a ridiculously high price for the baskets; and fourthly, should he not sell the baskets, he would have made this enormous journey, there and back, for nothing. In this way, the elder wished to test the obedience, humility and patience of his famous disciple. John silently prostrated before the elder and, without a word, took the baskets and started on his journey. Arriving in Damascus, he stood in the market place and awaited a buyer. When he told the interested passers-by the price of his goods, they laughed at and mocked him as a lunatic. He stood there the whole day, and the whole day he was exposed to derision and ridicule. But God, Who sees all things, did not abandon His patient servant. A certain citizen passed by and looked at John. Even though John was clad in a poor monk's habit and his face was withered and pale from fasting, this citizen recognized in him the one-time lord and first minister of the Caliph, in whose service he had also been. John also recognized him, but they both began to deal as strangers. Even though John named the all-too-high price of the baskets, the citizen purchased and paid for them without a word, recalling the good that John Damascene had once done for him. As a victor, holy John returned to the monastery rejoicing, and brought joy to his elder.

