

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

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Sunday February 12, 2017

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Holy martyrs Prima, Ampelius, Dativus, Plotinus, Saturninus, Fabius, Felix and their companions, in Carthage, by the sword (*see also: February 11*); Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381); Saint Mary, nun (called Marinos), and her father Saint Eugene, monk, at Alexandria (6th century); Saint Antony II of Constantinople, Patriarch (901); Saint Sisinnios, 'Bishop of God', in the region of the Metropolis of Ephesus (c. 919-944); Martyrs Modestus and Julian, at Carthage (2nd century?); Saint Modestus, a deacon, born in Sardinia and martyred under Diocletian (c. 304); Saint Eulalia of Barcelona, virgin-martyr under Diocletian (c. 304) (*see also December 10 and August 22*); Saint Damian, a martyr in Rome whose relics were found in the Catacombs of St Callistus; Saint Gaudentius of Verona, Bishop of Verona in Italy, Confessor (c. 465); Saint Æthelwold of Lindisfame (740); Saint Benedict Revelli, monk, who became Bishop of Albenga in 870 (c. 900); Saint Julian the Hospitaller; Saint Prochorus of Georgia, builder of Holy Cross Monastery near Jerusalem (1066); Venerable hieromartyr John the Sinaite (1091); New Monk-martyrs Luke (Mukhaidze) (1277) and Nicholas (Dvali) (1314), of Jerusalem, and the holy fathers of the Georgian monasteries in Jerusalem; Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonder-worker of All Russia (1378); Saint Bassian, founder and Abbot of Ryabovsky Forest Monastery in Uglich (1509) New Martyr Christos the Gardener, at Constantinople (1748) Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Kharkov (1840); Venerable Meletios of Ypseni (*Meletios of Lardos*), founder of the Monastery of Panagia Ypseni, Rhodes, in 1855 (19th century); New Hieromartyr Alexius (Buy), Bishop of Voronezh (1930) New Martyr Mitrophan, Archpriest (1931); **Other Commemorations:** Appearance of the Iveron Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos ("Panagia Portaitissa" or "Gate-Keeper"), Mt. Athos (9th century) (*see also March 31*); Repose of the cave-dweller Anastasia (Logacheva) of Ardatov (1875).

Services for the week of February 12

Saturday, February 18: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy. First Soul Saturday.

4-7 pm Chili Cook off. 8:00 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!

OFFERING: February 5: \$688.00

SEMI ANNUAL MEETING: Will take place next today, February 12. If you are a parishioner of our parish, please attend and listen to a number of reports which will update us all on the condition of our parish as of early 2017.

CHILI COOK OFF! Our men's group (named in honor of the Protomartyr Stephen) is hosting a chili cook off on Saturday, February 18 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Prizes will be offered at 7:30. Further information is offered on our website. Please attend and help in any way you can! Please spread this on your social media as far as you can!

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS: Please see our treasurer, Annie Fancher, to fulfill the diocesan duty of paying the assessment. This is a way for the diocese to know who is officially of each parish and assists the diocese in many ways.

THE PRIESTLY-MARTYR BLAISE

Blaise was born in the Province of Cappadocia. From his early childhood, he was God-fearing and meek. Because of his great virtues, he was chosen as bishop of the city Sebastea [in Armenia]. Blaise was a great spiritual and moral beacon in this pagan city. At the time of a grave persecution of Christians, St. Blaise encouraged his flock and visited the martyrs of Christ in prison, especially among them was the eminent and glorious Eustratius. When the city of Sebastea completely depleted of Christians, some were slain, and others fled, the Elder Blaise withdrew to Mt. Argeos and settled there in a cave. Wild beasts recognized the holy man, gathered around him and he tenderly caressed them. But the persecutors found the saint in this remote place and brought him to trial. Along the way, Blaise cured a young boy who had a bone caught in his throat. To the plea of the poor widow whose pie had been snatched by a wolf; the saint by the power of his prayer commanded the wolf to return it. The sinister judges tortured Blaise severely: flogging him and scrapping him with an iron comb. By his steadfastness in the Faith of Christ, Blaise converted many pagans to the Faith. Seven women and two children languished in prison with him. The women were beheaded first and after that, the wonderful Blaise, with these two children was beheaded. He suffered and was glorified in the year 316 A.D. People pray to St. Blaise for the well being of their domestic livestock and for protection against wild beasts. However, in the west, he is also involved for diseases for the throat.