

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

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Sunday February 19, 2017

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Apostles Archippos, Philemon, and Apphias of the Seventy Apostles (1st century); Martyrs Maximus, Theodotus, Hesychius, and Asclepiodota of Adrianopolis (305-311); Venerable Saints Eugene and Macarius, Priests, Confessors at Antioch (363); Saint Mesrop the Translator, of Armenia (439); Venerable Rabulas of Samosata (c. 530) Venerable Conon, Abbot of the Pethukla Monastery in Palestine (555); Saint Dositheus of Gaza, disciple of Saint Abba Dorotheus (7th century); Venerable Sophronios, Bishop; Saint Gabinus, a martyr in Rome related to the Emperor Diocletian, but also the brother of Pope Gaius, and father of the martyr St Susanna (c. 295); Saint Quodvultdeus, Bishop of Carthage in North Africa (450); Saint Valerius (*Valère*), Bishop of Antibes in the south of France (c. 450); Saint Odran, ranks as the first Christian martyr in Irish history, was St.Patrick's chariot driver (c. 452); Saints Publius, Julian, Marcellus and Companions, martyrs in North Africa; Saint Barbatus of Benevento, who took part in the Sixth Oecumenical Council in Constantinople at which Monothelitism was condemned (682); Saint Mansuetus, Bishop of Milan and Confessor, he wrote a treatise against Monothelitism (c. 690); Saint Beatus of Liébana, a monk at Liebana, famous for his firm stand against Adoptionism (789); Saint George of Lodève, Bishop of Lodève (c. 884); Saint Yaroslav the Wise, son of the Varangian (Viking) Grand Prince Vladimir the Great (1054) (*see also February 20 and February 28*); New Nun-martyr Philothei of Athens (1588); Venerable Theodore, Abbot of Sanaxar Monastery (1791) New Hieromartyr Nicetas, Hieromonk, of Epirus and Mt. Athos, at Serres (1809) (*see also April 4*); Saint Maria, desert-dweller of Olonets (1860) (*see also February 9*); New Hieromartyr Vladimir (Terentiev), Abbot, of Zosima Hermitage, Smolensk (1933); New Martyr Demetrius Volkov (1942); **Other Commemorations:** Icon of the Mother of God of Cyprus (392).

Services for the week of February 19

Tuesday, February 21: 7:00 pm Cheesefare Vespers

Saturday, February 25: 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!

OFFERING: February 12: \$972.00

CHILI COOK OFF! Thanks to all who participated in any way in our chili cook off. As of this writing, it is yet unknown how the crowd will be and how the event will go, but all the effort is already apparent. THANKS!

PLEASE KEEP RANDY BAILEY in your prayers as he continues to recover from foot surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery!

DIOCESAN ASSESMENTS: 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.

HOMILY

About testing

"The person who istrustworthy in very smallmatters is also trustworthyin great ones; and theperson who is dishonestin very small matters isalso dishonest in great ones. If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, whowill give you what is yours?" (St. Luke 16: 10-12).

This is how the Householder of both the material and spiritual world speaks. Material wealth He calls "small" and the spiritual wealth He calls "great." To whomever material wealth is given and proves himself to be selfish, hardhearted, arrogant, unmerciful and godless, to him spiritual wealth cannot be given, for if he is unfaithful in small things, he will be unfaithful in great things; when he is unfaithful in the physical, he will be unfaithful in the spiritual.

Man undergoes a test in a foreign world, and if he passes the test, he will gain his own world; if, however, he fails the test, who will give him his world? Man's true world, his homeland, is the heavenly sublime, divine world. The earthly world, however, is the world of coarseness and deterioration; a foreign world for man. But man is sent into this foreign world to complete a test for that, his true world; for his heavenly homeland.

Both expressions of the Savior, however, are similar in meaning. O how profound and true is their meaning! Just as light disperses darkness, so do these words of the Savior disperse our confusion in relation to that: why are we sent into this life? And what should we do? Whoever is able to read with a pure understanding, to him, everything is said in these two sentences.

Therefore, let us know that God will not bestow the spiritual gifts; the gift of understanding, nor the gift of faith, nor the gift of love, nor the gift of purity, nor the gift of prophecy, nor the gift of miracle-working, nor the gift of authority over demons, nor the gift of discernment, nor the gift of the vision of the heavenly world to him who has gambled and used these gifts for evil - as did the prodigal son - with the gifts of bodily health, or earthly riches or glory and position among men or knowledge of the material world or some other skill or ability.

O Lord Most Gentle, sustain our fidelity toward You in that which You have entrusted to us.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

St. Nikolai (Velimirovich)