

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

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*Sunday January 15, 2017*

Monk-martyr Pansophius of Alexandria (ca.250); Martyrs Elpidios, Danax, and Helen; Venerable Paul of Thebes (341); Holy 6 Monk-Martyrs of the Desert, who reposed peacefully; Venerable Salome of Ujarma, and Venerable Perozhavra of Sivnia, Georgia (ca.361); Venerable Alexander the Ever-Vigilant, founder of the Monastery of the Unsleeping Ones ("the Ever-Vigilant"), at Gomon, north-eastern Bithynia (ca.426-427); Venerable John Calabytes, the "hut-dweller" of Constantinople (ca.450); Venerable Prochorus, Abbot in the Vranski Desert on the River Pchinja, in Bulgaria (10th c.); Virgin-martyr Secundina, scourged to death near Rome in the persecution of Decius (ca.250); Martyr Ephysius of Sardinia (303); Saint Maximus, Bishop of Nola (ca. 250); Saints Maura and Britta, two holy virgins in France (4th c.); Saint Eugippius, ordained priest at Rome, was biographer of St Severinus of Noricum (535); Saint Ite of Killeedy (*Ytha, Meda*), Hermitess in Ireland and foster-mother of Saint Brendan (570); Saint Maurus, disciple of St. Benedict of Nursia (584); Saint Lleudadd (*Laudatus*), first Abbot of Bardsey Island, Wales (6th c.); Saint Sawyl Penuchel, the father of Asaph of Wales (6th c.); Saint Tarsicia of Rodez, an Anchoress who lived near Rodez, sister of St. Ferréol of Uzès (600); Saint Malard, Bishop of Chartres, present at the Council of Châlon-sur-Saône in 650 (ca.650); Saint Bonitus, Bishop of Clermont and Confessor, later a monk (ca.710); Saint Emebert, an early Bishop of Cambrai (ca.710); Saint Ceolwulf of Northumbria, King of Northumbria, monk of Lindisfarne (764); Saint Blaithmaic (Blathmac), an Abbot from Ireland, went to Scotland and was martyred by the Danes on the altar steps of the church of Iona (ca.823); Venerable Gabriel, founder of Lesnovo Monastery, Serbia-Bulgaria (12th c.); Venerable Barlaam of Keret Lake (16th c.) New Hieromartyr Benjamin, Bishop of Romanov (1930); New Hieromartyr Michael, Priest (1942).

*Services for the week of January 15*

Saturday, January 21: 6:00 pm Great Vespers

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## 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:** January 8: \$581.00

**HOME BLESSINGS CONTINUE** the week of Monday, January 9. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like your home to be blessed.

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING** to the Ladies' Altar Society for help with the Christmas flowers and the cleaning of the church and hall. Thank you!

## HOMILY

### About the victorious faith

"And the victory that conquers the world in our faith" (I John 5:4).

Christ the Lord conquered the world. That, brethren, is also our victory. The apostles conquered the world and that is our victory. The saints, virgins and martyrs conquered the world and that is our victory. Brethren, there is nothing more powerful in the world than the Christian Faith. The swords that struck this Faith became blunt and broken but the Faith remained. The kings who fought against this Faith were smothered under the anathema of crimes. The kingdoms that waged war against this Faith are destroyed. The towns that rejected this Faith lay demolished in their ruins. The heretics who corrupted this Faith perished in soul and body and under anathema departed from this world, and this Faith remained.

Brethren, when the world pursues us with its temptations: the temptation of external beauty, the temptation of riches, the temptation of pleasure, the temptation of transient glory; with what shall we resist and by what shall we be victorious if not by this Faith? In truth, by nothing except by this invincible Faith which knows about something better than all the wealth of this world.

When all the temptations of this world reveal the opposite side of their faces, when beauty turns into ugliness, health into sickness, riches into poverty, glory into dishonor, authority into humiliation and all blossoming physical life into filth and stench--by what shall we overcome this grief, this decay, this fifth and stench, and to preserve oneself from despair, if not by this Faith? In truth, by nothing except this invincible Faith which teaches us eternal and unchangeable values in the Kingdom of Christ.

When death shows its destructive power over our neighbors, over our relatives and our families, over our flowers, over our crops, over the works of our hands and, when it turns its irresistible teeth even on us, by what shall we conquer the fear of death and by what shall we unlock the doors of life, stronger than death, if not by this Faith? In truth, by nothing except this invincible Faith, which knows about the resurrection and life without death.

O Lord Jesus, the Conqueror of the world, help us also to conquer the world with faith in You.