

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

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Sunday January 22, 2017

Apostle Timothy, of the Seventy Apostles (ca. 96); Monk-martyr Anastasius the Persian (628); 377 martyrs in Bulgaria, including: bishops Manuel, George, Peter, and Leontius, presbyters Sionius, Gabriel, John, Leontius, and Parodus; Hieromartyr Vincent the Deacon (*Vincent of Saragossa*), in Valencia under Diocletian (304); Martyrs Vincent, Orontius, and Victor, near Gerona in Spain (305); Saint Vincent of Digne, Bishop of Digne in France (380); Saint Blaesilla, a daughter of St Paula (383); Saint Gaudentius of Novara, Bishop of Novara and Confessor (417); Saint Wendreda, Virgin of March, Cambridgeshire (7th century); Saint Dominic of Sora, founder of several monasteries, renowned for miracles (1031); Saint Brithwald of Wilton (*Bertwald of Ramsbury*), Bishop of Ramsbury (1045); Venerable Martyr Anastasius the Deacon of the Kiev Caves Monastery (12th century); Venerable Joseph Samakus the Sanctified, of Crete (1511); Venerable Macarius, Abbot of Zhabyn (Belev), Wonder-worker (1623); Saint Ioasaph (Bolotov), Enlightener of Alaska and the American land (1799) New Hieromartyrs John, Nicholas, Jacob, Peter, John, John (1938); New Hieromartyrs John Uspensky and Euthymius Tikhonravov, Priests (1938); **Other Commemorations:** Finding of the Holy Icon of "Panagia Eleistria" in Koroni, Messenia (1897).

Services for the week of January 22

Tuesday, January 24: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Ksenia of Petersburg

Saturday, January 28: 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: January 15: \$2390.79

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.

HAPPY NAMEDAY to Miss Inez Crowder who celebrated her name day yesterday and is hosting coffee hour today. Be sure to compliment her on all the good things she cooked. Her parents must be so proud!

DON'T FORGET about Tuesday's Liturgy. St. Ksenia is a patroness of those who look for work and her grave is a very popular place of pilgrimage in St. Petersburg, Russia. I hope that by honoring her, she will pray for our parish (and for Annie Fancher who took St. Ksenia as her holy patroness).

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS: Speaking of Annie, please see her 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 HOLY FEMALE MARTYR AGNES

As a thirteen year old girl, Agnes was thrown into the fire for the Faith of Christ and was then beheaded. She showed great miracle-working power during life and after death. Agnes suffered during the reign of Diocletian in the year 305 A.D.

REFLECTION

The Christian Faith is the only Faith in the world that has one determined and never changing standard of values. About how it [Christianity] measures and classifies its values, St. John Chrysostom speaks clearly. He says, "Things have a three-fold distinction: the first are good and cannot be evil, for example: wisdom, charity and the like; the second are evil and can never be good, for example: perversion, inhumanity and cruelty. The third, at times becomes this or at times becomes that, whenever, according to the disposition of those who make use of it." This divine teacher explains, "how riches and poverty, and freedom and slavery, and power and disease and even death itself fall into the neutral distinction which, are neither good nor evil by themselves, but become either this or that according to the disposition of men and according to the use which men make of them. For example, if riches were good and poverty evil, then all rich men would be good and all the poor would be evil. However, we are daily convinced that as there are good and evil rich men, so also are there good and evil poor men. The same can be applied to the healthy and the sick, to the free and the enslaved, to the satiated and the hungry, to those who are in authority and to those under subjugation. Even death is not evil for `the martyrs, through death, became more fortunate than all."