

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

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*Sunday March 12, 2017*

***Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas***

Righteous Aaron the High Priest, brother of Prophet Moses the God-seer (c. 1530 BC); Righteous Phineas, grandson of Aaron (c. 1500 BC) (*see also September 2*); Holy Nine Martyrs in the Persian Empire; Saint Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome (604) (*see also September 3*); Venerable Theophanes the Confessor of Sigriane (818) Venerable Saints Symeon the New Theologian (1022), and his elder, Symeon the Studite (*Symeon the Reverent, the Pious*), of the Studion Monastery (987); Saint Cyrus (*Abba-Cyr*), monk of Alexandria (6th century); Martyr Mamilian (*Maximilian*), in Rome; Martyr Maximilian (*Maximilian of Tebessa*), in Thebeste in Numidia, for refusing military service (295); Saint Paul Aurelian (*Paul de Léon, Pawl Hen*), Bishop of Saint Pol-de-Léon in Brittany, Confessor (572); Saint Peter the Deacon, disciple, secretary and companion of St Gregory the Great, and patron-saint of Salussola in Italy (c. 605); Saint Mura McFeredach (*Muran, Murames*), Abbot of Fahan in County Donegal, patron-saint of Fahan where his cross still stands (c. 645); Saint Alphege the Bald, (*Ælfheah the Elder, Ælfheah the Bald*), Bishop of Winchester, England (951); Saint Nicodemus of Mammola in Calabria (990); Venerable Lawrence the Martyr (*Lavrentios*), one of the "300 Allemagne Saints" in Cyprus (12th century); Martyr Demetrius the Devoted, King of Georgia (1289); Saint Stephen Dragutin of Serbia (monk Theoctistus Dragutin), (1316); Saint Alexander Derzhavin, Priest, Confessor (1933); New Hieromartyr Vladimir (Volkov), Archimandrite of Slavskoe, Moscow (1938); New Hieromartyr John Plekhanov, Priest (1938); New Hieromartyr Sergius Skvortsov, Priest (1943); **Other Commemorations:** Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "Not-Made-by-Hands" (on the Pillar) at Lydda. Repose of Schema-monk Anthony the Gorge-dweller, of Zelenchug Monastery in Kuban (1908); Restoration of the Autocephaly of the Georgian Orthodox and Apostolic Church (1917).

***Services for the week of March 12***

Monday, March 13: 6:30 pm Parastas for the repose of +Metropolitan Nicholas on the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his falling asleep.

Wednesday, March 15: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 17: 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Saturday, March 18: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Third Soul Saturday.

6:00 pm Vigil for the Sunday of the Holy Cross.

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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:** March 5: \$937.00

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Wanda (Martha) Smith, and Janet Mikel. Both have recently spent time in the hospital and we need to lift them up in our daily prayers.

**PLEASE KEEP** Ernie Chizmar in your prayers as he has transferred from HealthSouth to Westwood center. He is still undergoing therapy and is happy to hear from anyone in our community. May God bless both him and his wife, Dorothy and their family.

**HOLY CONFESSION:** Please be aware that to be considered an Orthodox Christian *in good standing* in our diocese...that Holy Confession once a year as the *minimum* requirement and it must take place during the Great Fast. Please plan on having confession at least once during this sacred season.

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN:** The "spotlight" section is updated very regularly with edifying material to help us make progress through the Fast.

**REFLECTION**

No one, not even the Lord Himself, can easily instruct the proud. No one wants to give instructions to him who cries out that he knows everything. "For great is the power of God; by the humble, He is glorified" says the wise Sirach. (The Book of Ecclesiasticus - Sirach 3:19), David also speaks about God saying, "He guides the humble to justice, He teaches the humble His way" (Psalm 25:9). The proud person is he who wants to teach everyone and himself does not want to be taught anything by anyone. The humble is he who does not wish to teach anyone but continually desires to be taught regardless by whom. An empty spike [ear] of grain raises its head above the entire field and the full spike [ear] of grain hangs down with bowed head. O proud man, if only your Guardian Angel would somehow remove the veil from your eyes and show you the endless open sea of all that you do not know, you would kneel before every man before whom you have exhibited pride and kneel before every man whom you have belittled. You would cry out lamenting, "Forgive me, forgive me! I do not know anything!" Often times, to the humble and pious the time when they are about to die is revealed, but the death of the proud comes unexpectedly and without warning. St. Gregory Dialogues speaks of a bishop, Carpus, who daily celebrated the Divine Liturgy and how suddenly someone appeared from the other world and said, "Continue to do what you are doing in serving me and may your legs never grow tired or your hands weakened. On the feast day of the Dormition of the Mother of God you will come to Me and I will give you your reward in My Heavenly Kingdom, together with all of those for whom you have prayed at the Divine Services." After a year, on the feast of the Dormition, Bishop Carpus celebrated the Divine Liturgy of God, sought forgiveness from his priests, and gave up his soul to God. His face glowed like the sun.

St. Nikolai (Velimirovich)