

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

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Sunday March 26, 2017

Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Sirmium; Hieromartyr Eusebius, Bishop of Kival, and Martyr Pullius the reader; Saint Malchus, Monk of Chalcis in Syria; Venerable Basil the Younger (or the New), anchorite near Constantinople; Martyrs Bathusius and Bercus presbyters, Arpilus monk, laymen Abibus, Agnus, Reasus, Igathrax, Isoecus (Iskous), Silas, Signicus, Sonerilas, Suimbalus, Thermus, Phillus (Philgas), and the women Anna, Alla, Larissa, Monco (Manca), Mamica, Uirko (Virko), Animais (Animaida), Gaatha, and Duklida, in Crimea; Martyr Codratus (Quadratus), Theodosius, Emmanuel, and with them 40 Martyrs who suffered under Diocletian; Martyrs Montanus the Presbyter of Singidunum and his wife Maxima; Martyr George of Sofia; Saint Govan, hermit of Pembrokeshire; Saint Liudger, missionary to the Frisians and first Bishop of Münster; Saint Braulio of Sargassa; Saint Rupert, Bishop of Worms

Services for the week of March 26

Wednesday, March 29: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.
Thursday, March 30: 6:00 pm Matins and the Canon of St. Andrew with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt.
Friday, March 31: 9:00 am Akathist to the Mother of God.
Saturday, April 1: NO SERVICES MORNING OR EVENING
Sunday, April 2: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

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 19: \$1967.00

DIACONAL ORDINATION: It is a pleasure and a joy to announce that Jason Crowder will be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, April 1 at the church of St. Mary of Egypt (ROCOR diocese) in Atlanta. Fr. Mark will be present at the ordination. Deacon Elias has been blessed by our bishop and also by his diocese to serve here in our parish church. May God grant the soon-to-be-ordained deacon and his dear wife and daughter every blessing and good strength for the ministry!

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION for Paschal flowers to the Ladies' Altar Society. The Resurrection will be here soon. Help to beautify the church on this most sacred of days.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Wanda (Martha) Smith, Janet Mikel and Ernie Chizmar. May the Lord bless them and remember them in all ways. May He grant them health!

PLEASE REMEMBER ALSO: Sandy, the daughter of Ernie and Dorothy Chizmar, who is suffering from terminal cancer in Texas. May God give all of them strength to bear this cross and the hope of a blessed resurrection!

GIFT SHOP: A number of items are available: The classic book, Great Lent by Fr. A. Schmemman. There is also a Lenten Cookbook and a number of nice crosses for sale. Please do a little shopping before Pascha. Thank you!

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.

REFLECTION

When a miracle occurs, do not be confused by it, rather, rejoice. God has placed His finger there, either to reward or to punish or to encourage His faithful or to lead the sinners on the path of salvation. People frequently compare this world to a fiery chariot. When you see a locomotive or another steam engine, you know that an engineer is hidden from view. That does not surprise you, does it? If the engineer puts his head out of the cab, waves his hand, extends a rod, waves a handkerchief, or tosses out a letter, or makes some other sign, you know that this does not interfere with the travel of the locomotive and does not damage one pin in it. Why, then, do the faithless say that God with His miracles interferes with the movement of these earthly chariots? Why? Because the faithless are unreasonable. The faithful rejoice at God's signs. A child is frightened before a fiery chariot but rejoices when a man, resembling himself, appears from the chariot. O, how dear it is to us when, from this mute universe which hurls around us, someone appears resembling us and that someone is one who recognizes and loves us! When a miracle occurs, know that He Who resembles us greets us and says, "Do not be afraid, I am beyond all of this." St. Basil the New worked many miracles. Through prayer he healed the sick and discerned the fate of people like an open book. Through His chosen ones, God, as always, demonstrated His love and power to men in order to firmly establish the faithful in the Faith and to shame the unfaithful and to return them to the Faith.

St. Nikolai (Velimirovich)